

Question time is foreign affair without Hurd's quiet assurance

At the essentials were in place. It was Wednesday at Westminster. It was time for Foreign Office Questions. Thirty-five questions, all about foreign affairs, were on the Order Paper.

Prayers were over and Madam Speaker was in the Chair. The Foreign Secretary and his team were on the Front Bench, civil servants poised ready in the officials' box. Robin Cook, chief spokesman for the Labour Party, sat opposite. Up in the Strangers' Gallery, tourists craned their necks. In the Press Gallery reporters twiddled pencils.

The stage, the script, the actors and their props... all there, all present and correct. But something was missing. A nameless anxiety tugged at our sleeve. We fidgeted and wondered why. A colleague whispered two words: "No Hurd."

No Hurd. Summer is over and it sinks in: he really isn't coming back. Foreign Affairs was a Hurd-free zone. It just

isn't Foreign Office Questions without Hurd. And it didn't seem right. Other ministers may endure, too, in office, but none so became the office. It often seemed not so much that Douglas Hurd conducted Britain's foreign policy, as that he was our foreign policy.

Such were his powers of blurring the issue that key moments occurred in European affairs when the only hard-edged thing you could see in a soft-focus world was the figure of the Foreign Secretary, making calming



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

speeches. That he was there was clear. That he seemed to know what he was doing was clear. What he was doing was not: but Mr Hurd always sounded so self-assured.

Along with Willie Whitelaw and Tom King, Douglas Hurd is one of that dwindling band of senior Tories still capable of telling you, in tones

of quiet decency which hint that you are being taken into their confidence, that — whatever appearances may suggest — everything is under control.

Only after they slip away into the night does it occur to you to wonder why neither evidence of fact nor demonstration in logic has been offered in support of this

comforting message. And now he has slipped away into the night, or NatWest. In his place yesterday, Malcolm Rifkind sounded promisingly dull and wise. But if you concentrate hard on what Mr Rifkind says the disturbing thought occurs that he actually is trying to say something. Intellectual edge unnerves a generation grown accustomed to a Foreign Secretary with intellect, but no edge. Perhaps we shall get used to it. Alongside Mr Rifkind yesterday sat a man

who (we realised) possesses a quality almost unknown in a politician. Jeremy Hanley, sometime Chairman of the Conservative Party and now Minister of State at the Foreign Office, is a really good sport.

Reduced (poor blighter) to shuffling between London and those non-priority parts of the world we used (when your sketchwriter was in the Diplomatic Service) to call the Outer Darkness, Mr Hanley found himself yesterday afternoon answering a Question

from Nick Hawkins (C, Blackpool S) about inward trade missions. Mr Hawkins demoted his Hon Friend to "Parliamentary Under Secretary", an even more junior kind of minister. Said Hanley mildly: "I am in fact a Minister of State." Then his sense of humour overcame him. "But, judging by the direction of my career recently, it may only be a matter of time."

Some will call that a gag. The rest of us call it a rare and precious failure of self-importance.

Church 'hijacked' by liberal wing

Gay rights likely to dominate Synod after election gains

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

GAY activists will make demands for the Church of England to conduct homosexual marriages and ordain practising gay clergy after claiming the support of a quarter of the newly elected General Synod.

The demands will realise the worst fears of traditionalists who have said the scriptural authority, morality and the reputation of the Church are being hijacked by a "liberal agenda".

As the final election results continued to come in from the 44 dioceses, it became clear that the issue of gay rights will dominate proceedings of the synod for the next five years. The gay lobby, led by the Rev Richard Kyrle of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, is claiming an increase in its support in the synod from less than 10 per cent to about 25 per cent.

The elections, which have resulted in big losses to the traditionalist, Catholic wing, herald a new era for a Church which is deeply split over a host of issues including homosexuality, biblical authority and liturgical language. Traditionalists and evangelicals, once split over the use of the sacraments, ritual and the Bible, are forming an alliance on moral issues which they hope will defeat the increasingly radical liberals.

They are determined to stop the synod being hijacked by minority-interest groups out of touch with the majority of congregations.

In an "agenda-setting document" to be launched next month before the synod's first meeting, the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement de-

mands recognition from bishops that a "permanent, faithful, stable relationship" of a homosexual couple is as valid as a heterosexual marriage. The agenda, edited by the Rev Cristina Summers, a non-stipendiary minister in the Guildford diocese, calls for the bishops to recognise that permanent, stable relationships between homosexual clergy are also valid.

One of the authors is a newly elected synod member, Canon Margaret Bradburn of the Wakefield diocese, who criticises Bible passages such as the story of Sodom in Genesis, arguing that it is wrong to cite them against homosexuality.

The ultimate aim of the lobby is to have a gay marriage-style service included in the church liturgies, at present being revised. Mr Kyrle said such services would be modelled on those already agreed by some dioceses in the Episcopal Church in America.

Mr Kyrle said: "The Church should be able to offer liturgies of commitment by

couple to all, irrespective of their sexual orientation." He said the movement did not use the word "marriage" because of its heterosexual overtones, but agreed that such liturgies would be "akin to" marriage services.

Such demands will be fiercely contested in the synod, and it is unlikely that the gay lobby will achieve the two-thirds majority needed for radical change to church law for many years, if ever. However, traditionalists fear that the political and organisational ability of the gay lobby and other liberal groups is such that their influence will grow disproportionately.

Margaret Brown, one of the synod's most vociferous traditionalist backbenchers, who topped the poll in the Chichester diocese, predicted that the Catholic and evangelical lobby would unite to defeat the liberals. She said the future of the Church itself was at stake.

Mrs Brown said: "People have got to be able to reach for something that is right, pure and good. At the moment they do not feel that about the Church of England."

She blamed the liberals. "Until we have a clear Church with proper belief, we will never bring people in. The church has to be whiter than white. It is the Church of Jesus Christ, not some secular institution."

Philip Gore, a leading evangelical from the Manchester diocese, attributed a fall in membership of the Church to liberalism. "People are fed up," he said. "They see the Church taking a weak stand on various things such as the family."



Kyrle: wants marriage service for homosexuals



Spending together: Friedrich and Maja Flick in 1985, three years after they wed

Continued from page 1
earn about £570,000 a year, placed in a standard savings account paying an average 6 per cent interest. The previous highest divorce award made by a court is thought to be a £125,000 settlement in 1989 to a Yugoslav.

Mrs Flick married in 1985. The couple lived at homes in several different countries, including England. Mrs Flick now lives at Egham, Surrey, and her children are at school in England.

On Tuesday, Bruce Blair, QC, for Mr Flick, 51, told the Court of Appeal that the court granting Mrs Flick leave to ask for more would never have done so if it had been aware of all the facts.

But Sir Thomas Bingham,

Divorcée says £9m not enough

Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Otton and Sir John Balcombe decided she could continue to try to increase the award.

Giving a unanimous decision, Sir John said that after being awarded the £9 million of her husband's accepted assets, Mrs Flick sought leave to appeal "on the basis £9 million was not enough". While it was possible different judges might have refused her leave to appeal, he was not satisfied there were grounds

to rescind that leave. Mr Blair, in his submission to the judges, revealed that to win the original award, Mrs Flick had spent £160,000 getting top accountants to draw up "budget" papers as guidance on the sort of money she needed.

The couple divorced in England in June last year on the basis of regular residency.

After the hearing, Margaret Bennett, a leading divorce lawyer not involved in the case, suggested it could lead the way to wives of wealthy men receiving much higher percentages of a husband's fortunes. "When you look at £9 million, which is now lower than some lottery wins, it is less than 10 per cent of her husband's wealth."

Fighting spirit secured chance of life

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

JAYMEE BOWEN'S fighting spirit may have helped her to conquer cancer and survive against the odds, a specialist said yesterday. The 11-year-old girl has shown exceptional resilience during the five years she has been receiving treatment.

Despite suffering repeated disappointments as her cancer has recurred, and undergoing three courses of chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, she has never lost her optimism, vivacity or determination to beat the disease.

Dr Jayesh Mehta, the leukaemia specialist who pioneered the experimental treatment given to Jaymee in April, said her positive outlook, even after the bone marrow transplant failed, was

an important factor in the decision to go ahead.

Dr Mehta, co-ordinator of the bone marrow transplant programme at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, said: "Most patients feel once a transplant has been performed that that is the end of their troubles. Once they find the cancer has returned, a lot get very dispirited and lose their capacity to cope with the treatment. A positive attitude is very important in the patients, and in their doctors."

The experimental treatment, donor lymphocyte infusion, involved clearing the leukaemia cells from Jaymee with a course of chemotherapy and then flooding the body with cells taken from the bone marrow of her sister, Charlotte, with the aim of prevent-

ing the leukaemia recurring. Between April and June Jaymee had five infusions and she is still free of the disease.

Dr Mehta published results of the treatment on nine adults in *Bone Marrow Transplantation* earlier this year. All had suffered a recurrence of their cancer after a bone marrow transplant and had been expected to die, but four remain alive.

"It is undoubtedly a valuable treatment although we had not tried it in children," Dr Mehta said. "Jaymee is not out of danger yet. She could relapse at any time in the first two years. If she survives two years then the chances are high that she will be cured."

Jaymee was treated by Dr

Gravett, with advice from Dr Mehta, at the private Portland Hospital in London after her local health authority refused to fund experimental treatment. The cost was met by an anonymous donor. Last month the commission began paying for her treatment again.

Dr Ron Zimmern, director of public health for the authority, said: "We never declined to fund standard treatment or continuing care. We were adamant we would not pay for experimental treatment. Now that phase is over, we considered it right to pay for her continuing treatment." If she relapsed and further experimental treatment was proposed, "we would be back to square one", Dr Zimmern said.



Gill Faldo: wants to keep matters private

whoever has been disseminating misinformation to the media should cease to do, and that she and her family be given privacy at this distressing time."

The couple, who have three children aged 2, 6, and 9, have enjoyed a successful business partnership. Mrs Faldo is a director of Nick Faldo International, which last year produced earnings for the golfer estimated at £4 million.

Doctor optimistic

Continued from page 1
through more suffering to live than not to go through anything and die. Of course, there are some children who would do that. But I'm not one of them."

She said she found out her leukaemia, which she has had since she was five, had returned last January. "I just got called out of assembly and told you've got a bug in your blood. You have to go back to hospital. I'm thinking 'Oh no here we go'. I thought it would just be something very slight that they could get rid of with some antibiotics. And I went in and I found out that I had to have more chemotherapy."

"That didn't exactly make me feel any better because I'd just spent the past three or four months growing my hair. And it didn't make me feel any better that I had to go and lose it again — fourth time."

The High Court had ruled that it could not force the health authority to provide the treatment and Jaymee's treatment began only after an anonymous donor had offered to pay £75,000.

Yesterday the Court of Appeal was told that there is no money left to pay for further experimental treatment and Jaymee's father wanted the ban lifted to raise enough money to pay for treatment in case of relapse.

The court was told the girl's father has a contract with the *Daily Mirror* which has so far paid £6,500 and was making £13,500 available for further treatment. Another £3,000 would be provided if the newspaper could name the girl and her family.

Jaymee is being admitted to the Portland Hospital, London, for 48 hours during her half term break.

Gill Faldo denies reports of £7.5m divorce settlement

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE wife of the golfer Nick Faldo yesterday strongly denied reports that her husband had offered her a divorce settlement of £7.5 million.

In a statement issued through her solicitors, Gill Faldo said that no such offer had been made and that the

question of a financial settlement following their recently announced separation had not even been discussed. She asked that private matters concerning her marriage be dealt with privately.

Earlier this week, some newspapers reported that the Faldos were separating and that the three-times Open champion would make a generous settlement to enable him to pursue a relationship with Brenna Capelak, a 20-year-old American student and golfer.

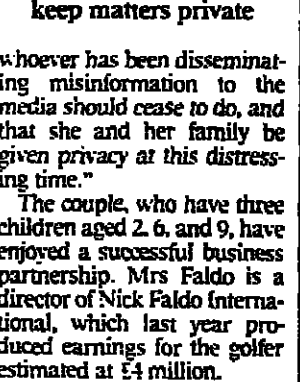
The figure of £7.5 million, which has not been attributed to any source, appears to have been no more than a back-of-an-envelope calculation based on halving Faldo's estimated assets of £15 million.

After the initial press reports, IMG, the company that manages Faldo and other

sporting stars, issued a statement on behalf of the couple saying that, after nearly ten years of marriage, they had decided to separate. The statement made no mention of any financial arrangements.

Yesterday Mrs Faldo's solicitors, Mishcon de Reya, issued a further statement saying that they and Mrs Faldo were "very concerned by inaccurate reports carried in the media over the last few days which suggest that she has been offered a divorce settlement by her husband, Nick Faldo."

It went on: "Both Mishcon de Reya and Mrs Faldo would like it to be known that no offer has been made or the subject even discussed to date. Mrs Faldo is anxious that private matters concerning her marriage should be dealt with privately. She requests that



Railtrack makes fifth attempt at timetable

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILTRACK has started work on the fifth version of its winter timetable a month after the original was found to be so littered with errors that it was forced to publish two volumes of corrections.

A spokeswoman for the company, which is due to be privatised next spring, said the final, definitive and, hopefully, error-free network train timetable would be available to passengers in January. "Every effort is to be made to ensure that the timetable is accurate at the time of going to press," she said.

The new version of the timetable will be available free to people who can prove they bought its predecessor, which is fast becoming a collector's item. In the meantime, a third volume of corrections to the £7.50 original is to be published next month. The new supplement will include all the corrections in the 300 pages of the first two supplements as well as correcting their mistakes.

The 2,100-page timetable covering September to May was the first produced by Railtrack, which split from British Rail in April last year.

Members face three days of disruption next month when London Underground workers stage a 48-hour walkout over pay and conditions. The strike by drivers and station staff in the RMT transport union will start at noon on Tuesday November 7 and end at noon on Thursday November 9, hitting peak travel on three working days. The escalation of the dispute follows a ballot of RMT

An overambitious attempt to upgrade the timetable by including details of engineering works resulted in mistakes on 50 per cent of its pages.

The timetable was condemned by rail experts as the worst since the nationalisation of the industry in the 1940s. It included dozens of trains that departed at the wrong time or

called at the wrong stations, services that had been discontinued and even trains that would collide if they followed the timetable.

The Railtrack spokeswoman said the January timetable would still try to include the engineering work details that led to the mistakes. "We have not given up on that even though there were problems."

Major General Lemnos Napier, the chairman of the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, welcomed the move. "We know that the new industry is taking time to bed down after its fragmentation and hopefully they will learn from their mistakes."

Railtrack is struggling with a new and highly complex computer system that will eventually revolutionise the way information is collected for the timetable. However, it is unlikely to be ready in time for the summer timetable.

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ADMIRAL

Hasty sandwich feeds bacteria's appetite for life

BY LIN JENKINS

THE rapid pace of modern life was blamed yesterday as a main cause of the record number of food poisoning cases in Britain.

Dr Patrick Wall, of the Public Health Laboratory, said that the rising demand for fast food, especially the lunchtime takeaway sandwich, had greatly increased the breeding ground for pathogenic bacteria. Their effects range from stomach upsets to miscarriages and death.

The dangers lurking in the lunchtime sandwich have been

highlighted by the closure of a sandwich factory supplying Marks & Spencer where a "potential presence of salmonella" was discovered two weeks ago. The factory remained closed yesterday. A spokesman said that it would resume production when given the all-clear by health officials.

One study by environmental health officers found that 92 out of 113 sandwiches tested failed to meet one or more criteria used to determine microbiological quality. The bacteria in some included listeria, which can cause miscarriages or stillbirths, salmonella,

staphylococcus, which is spread by unwashed hands, open wounds, sneezing and coughing, and Escherichia coli.

Last year there were 82,000 incidents of food poisoning reported to the Public Health Laboratory, a rise of 14,000 on 1993. Cases have increased more than fivefold in a decade. About 60 people a year die.

No definitive statistics are gathered on the causes of food poisoning but a study by the Consumers' Association magazine *Which?* last year found that one in six sandwiches surveyed contained bacteria. Sandwiches account for a

quarter of the takeaway food business at a time when one in three meals is consumed outside the home, according to industry experts.

Dr Wall, a consultant epidemiologist, said: "The problem is the lifestyle we are leading. We say we cannot wait when we want a meal or a sandwich and so the preparation provides the opportunity for contamination."

Sandwiches sold at small shops, petrol stations and newsagents after being prepared by small suppliers in domestic kitchens were found to carry the highest risk. The

filling which runs the highest risk of contamination is chicken, which when poorly cooked can contain salmonella, campylobacter or listeria, followed by other cooked meats, egg and prawn. Within six hours in a warm environment, four bacteria in a moist sandwich will multiply to more than a million.

The safest fillings are corned beef, tuna and sardines, since they come out of the tin uncontaminated, and cheddar cheese, which is not moist enough to encourage bacteria to multiply.

According to the British Sandwich Association, a third of the

population eats a ready-made sandwich every day and 94 per cent eat them at least once a month.

New regulations under the Food Safety Act 1990 came into force last month, putting the onus for hygiene and food safety on the manufacturer. Sandwich producers, whether they are large factories supplying supermarkets or smaller kitchens serving sandwich bars, are legally obliged to take steps to control the problem.

Local councils also check that the system is working and do a site visit to every sandwich manufacturer at least once a year. The big

retailers — Marks & Spencer, which withdrew more than 80,000 sandwiches, is the largest — have their own food scientists. They carry out checks and link hygiene to contracts by stipulating maximum bacterial levels.

The final sanction is the courts. Local authorities are not slow to act when regulations have been breached. In recent years victims have also resorted to the courts. Two nurses who still suffered from irritable bowel syndrome five years after contracting salmonella from an airport sandwich received £68,500 and £115,000 damages.

Jury told Charmaine's photo fixes death date

BY RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

A PHOTOGRAPH of a smiling seven-year-old girl dominated the trial of Rosemary West yesterday as the prosecution called a dental expert in its attempt to prove Mrs West responsible for the murder of her stepdaughter.

Within the darkened courtroom a picture of Charmaine West's skull was superimposed on the photograph as Mrs West watched impassively from the dock. David Whittaker, a consultant dental surgeon, said he believed only

"a very short period of time" had elapsed from the time the photograph was taken until Charmaine's death.

The professional studio photograph was taken on April 29, 1971, while Mrs West's husband Frederick is known to have been in prison. He was released three months later.

Charmaine's body was recovered at the Wests' former home in Midland Road, Gloucester, after police began



Charmaine West body found at former home

their investigation in February 1994. Dr Whittaker, an expert in forensic odontology, said that he used the photograph of Charmaine to match dental similarities with the child's skull. Charmaine had lost her two front baby teeth and the permanent adult teeth had still to come through. In a child of Charmaine's age the growth of teeth was "very rapid". When the skull was superimposed on the photo-

graph they provided an exact match.

Dr Whittaker, who used a projector screen to demonstrate his evidence, told the court: "There was no appreciable growth in dental structure. That's why I believe that a very short period of time took place between the photograph being taken and that position being found in the skull."

Asked earlier by Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, to bracket the time of death after the colour photograph was taken, Dr Whittaker said: "Not more than two to three months. It could be less."

Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, had said that it was possible to abscond from Leyhill Open Prison, where Mr West was being held, during the night and return the following day without being noticed. Mr Ferguson did not cross-examine Dr Whittaker.

Mrs West, 41, denies the murder of Charmaine, her stepdaughter, as well as the murders of eight girls and a young woman whose remains were found at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester. The court has heard that Mrs West told neighbours Charmaine had returned to live in Scotland with West's first wife Rena Costello, the child's mother.

The body of Rena Costello was subsequently discovered in a field close to West's childhood home in Much Marcle, Hereford and Worcester. Mrs West is not charged in connection with her death.

The prosecution concluded its case and the trial was adjourned until Monday.

SECRET TAPE RECORDINGS

Rosemary West's conversations were secretly recorded by police after she was released on bail last year. Bugs were installed at 25 Cromwell Street and the safe houses where she was living before she was rearrested.

Detective Superintendent John Bennett said police listened in daily to her conversations. The tapes were checked for "anything of evidential value". The recordings had been given the go-ahead on the ground that they might bring to light "intelligence to gain the truth".

In the event, the tapes disclosed nothing to bolster the Crown's case against Mrs West, the court was told. Cross-examined by Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, Mr Bennett said that one of his officers who tried to sell the story to a newspaper or a publishing house had been removed from the inquiry.

Scientists discover power of the birds and bees

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

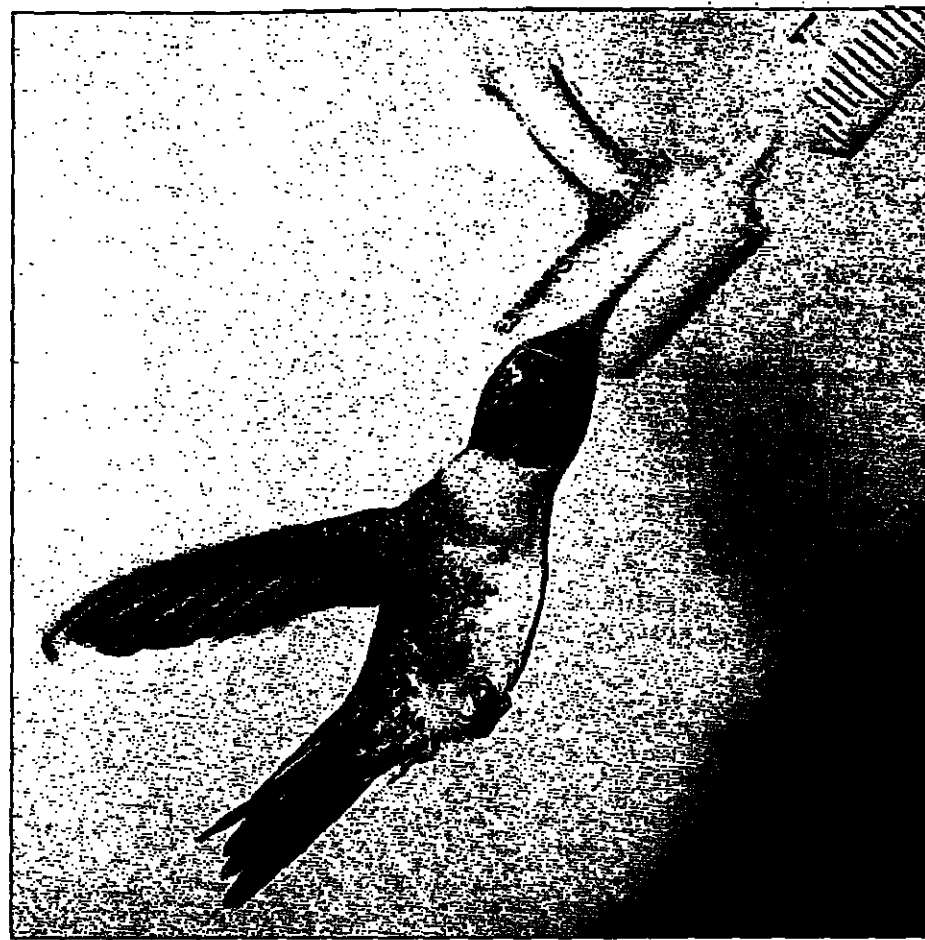
THE hummingbird, whose muscles pack the biggest punch of any vertebrate, has been out-performed by the orchid bee.

The hummingbird's flight was tested to the limit on the aerial equivalent of a treadmill. The experiments showed that even though their normal hovering power is remarkably high, hummingbirds have plenty in reserve. But the orchid bee, weight for weight, is even more impressive.

Two American scientists flew hummingbirds inside a clear 3ft plastic cube, encouraging them to hover by providing food through a tube. Then they made them work progressively harder by pumping in helium, the mixture of helium and oxygen used by deep-sea divers. Heliox contains the normal proportion of oxygen, but is only a third as dense as air.

This meant that the birds found themselves hovering in thinner and thinner air. Eventually they could no longer sustain flight and fell to the bottom of the chamber floor, but without doing themselves any injury.

Reporting in *Nature*, Dr Peng Chai, of the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr Robert Dudley, of the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, say that



A hummingbird in the experiment undertaken to monitor its energy output

the birds achieved a peak power output of 133 watts per kilogram of body weight.

They were able to keep flying at air densities less than half that at sea level, equivalent to an altitude of almost 20,000ft. Their peak energy output was 36 per cent greater than that required to hover at sea level.

Film of the birds showed that they managed to keep airborne not by increasing the frequency of their wing beats, but by taking longer sweeps. The frequency

changed hardly at all, from just under 50 beats per second to almost 52, but the angle through which the wings swept on each beat increased from 140 degrees to near 190 degrees. At this point, the wings were touching each other at the top and bottom of each sweep, leaving the birds with no further recourse. They crashed and could not take off again.

Calculations show that the hummingbirds achieve higher peak power, expressed as a fraction of bodyweight, than any other vertebrate. But the orchid bee, which has also been flight-tested by Dr Dudley, puts them in the shade.

These bees can achieve peak power outputs of 160 watts per kilogram, and unlike the hummingbirds can keep flying even in pure helium, which consists of 79 per cent helium and 21 per cent oxygen. Like the birds, the bees increase the sweep of their wings to remain aloft, but even in pure helium the angle of sweep reached only 142 degrees.

Snoozing sheriff puts dangerous driver in the clear

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN had his conviction for dangerous driving quashed on appeal yesterday after the court was told that the sheriff at the original hearing had fallen asleep.

Judges at the Justiciary Appeal Court in Edinburgh heard that Temporary Sheriff John T. Dean began to snore loudly as a police officer gave evidence in the case of Andrew Frew at Ayr Sheriff Court on August 21. A court official tried to wake the sheriff by banging on the bench. The court lapsed into an embarrassed silence before Sheriff Dean woke up and asked the procurator fiscal to re-examine the witness who was being cross-examined by Mr Frew's lawyer.

Despite the incident, the sheriff went on to find Mr Frew from Auchinleck, Strathclyde, guilty of dangerous driving. He was fined £250, banned for a year and ordered to retest his test.

Yesterday the Appeal Court judges, Lord Ross, Lord Morrison and Lord Prosser, ruled that justice had not been seen to be done. They were told that it was an extremely hot day and the court had no air conditioning.

Sheriff Dean told the Appeal Court in a statement that he was "unaware of anything untoward" and that what had occurred "may not be unique in judicial history".

GP able to speak after months in coma

BY EMMA WILKINS

A DOCTOR has awoken from a coma after a car crash three months ago in which her husband was killed. Dr Fiona Smith, 39, a GP from Dundee, is able to talk to her three children, who were in the family car but escaped injury when it crashed during a touring holiday in northwest France.

Dr Smith's husband James, also a GP, was killed when a lorry collided with the family's car near Tours in July. The couple's children, Dominic, 14, Fenola, 12, and Kevin, 7, were cut free from the wreckage.

Father Bernard O'Connor, the family's priest at St Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church, Dundee, said: "Some of our parishioners think this is miraculous. I prefer to think of it as a response to prayer."

"She emerged from the coma about a month ago but didn't seem to be responding at that time and the family had been told to expect the worst. It's quite extraordinary."

Dr Smith, who is recovering at St Mary's Hospital, Lanark, is now able to get out of bed and sit on a chair. Her colleagues at the Muirhead Medical Centre, Dundee, said yesterday they were delighted with her progress.

Smaller class sizes will cut crime, says Tumim

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SMALLER class sizes and a campaign against truancy will help to stop children becoming criminals, the Government's Chief Inspector of Prisons said yesterday. Judge Stephen Tumim said prisons were full of "basically uneducated" young men who had "failed in, or had been failed by, our schools".

He said young offenders repeatedly told him they either did not attend school or received too little personal attention from teachers, which Judge Tumim blamed on large classes.

His comments will add to the controversy over class sizes, stoked earlier this week by government figures showing a 30 per cent increase in primary school pupils in classes of 40 or more in the year to last January.

Judge Tumim was speaking yesterday at the launch of a report based on interviews with 250 prisoners, which found that 43 per cent had played truant from secondary school. They were three times as likely as non-offenders to be bullies at school; a quarter had been expelled; and more than half passed no exams.

Angela Devlin, author of *Criminal Classes*, said many were disaffected because prob-

lems such as dyslexia and hearing impairment went overlooked in big classes. Judge Tumim said: "Small classes and concentration on the individual seems to me to be brightly important. If you have very large classes, you are always going to get into trouble." He said truancy was also important and offenders told him they skipped school because they were bored or because it was "trendy".

Judge Tumim said: "I talk to prisoners all the time and when I ask them why they cannot read or write properly, the answer is that they did not go to school. I come across young people who have played truant, and no one seems to have done anything about it."

Mrs Devlin spent two years asking inmates of 12 prisons whether anything could have been done at school to keep them out of custody. She said:

"So little notice was taken of these people, and that goes with large classes. A lot of them said they were in a class of 30 or more and felt disregarded. They said over and over again that teachers did not have time to listen to them. They felt that if anybody had taken a bit of notice of them, they might not have ended up where they were."

Ms Devlin concluded: "From what the prisoners told me, teachers and head teachers are key players in the limiting of offending behaviour. Rather than apportioning blame for rising crime, politicians should provide funding for preventive measures." Case histories in the research often cite truancy, class size, bullying and abuse as home as factors influencing criminal behaviour.

Janet Daley, page 18

Worm turns back clock on human ancestry

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE ancestry of backboneed animals, including man, has been pushed back still further by the description of a fossil found in China.

The worm-like creature, *Yunnanozoon lividum*, was no more than an inch or two long. It dates from 525 million years ago, the time of the "Cambrian explosion" when the Earth was populated by a huge range of exotic creatures including, it seems, the ancestors of all today's species.

Yunnanozoon was found in Chengjiang, in Yunnan province, and is described in *Nature* by an international team led by Dr Lars Rams-

köld of the University of Uppsala in Sweden. Though small and apparently insignificant, the creature possesses a notochord, a strengthening rod that runs the full length of its body. This makes it the earliest-known ancestor of vertebrates, including birds, fish and mammals. All have the same basic body plan, pioneered by *Yunnanozoon* a month at one end, a tail at the other, and a strong link holding them together.

Dr Ramsköld and colleagues say that the creature was a chordate, and the earliest known to have adopted this body plan. If so, it would outdo the *Pikaia*, found in the Burgess Shale formation in

Canada and dating from a few million years later. *Pikaia* was believed to be the earliest chordate.

Professor Stephen Jay Gould, whose book *Wonderful Life* tells the story of the Burgess Shale, discovered, says the new find means that all the divisions of life we know today arose during the Cambrian explosion, a bare ten million years lasting between 530 and 520 million years ago.

In *Nature* he comments on the new fossil, saying that it is "a beautifully preserved and unambiguously identified chordate". The fact that its character was formed so long ago quashes human pretensions that we derive from a

more advanced form of life that developed later.

The miracle is that this insignificant creature survived, for many of the forms that emerged so suddenly subsequently disappeared for ever.

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Daily rate could be up to £2,000

Whitehall considers plan to charge for civil court hearings

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

PEOPLE involved in civil disputes may face a daily court hearing fee of £2,000 in the High Court and £800 in the County Courts under proposals being considered in Whitehall.

The pay-as-you-go charge would mean a huge rise in the cost of bringing or defending claims in the civil courts. At present people pay for launching civil actions but not for the daily cost of being in court.

The controversial option is one of several being examined by a joint working party of officials from the Lord Chancellor's Department and the Court Service. The options will be put to Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, next month and he will complete a discussion paper that is likely to be published before Christmas.

The plan for a daily hearing fee comes as the cost of bringing cases before the highest court in the land, the House of Lords, are about to rise eight-fold. The new House of Lords fees, including £500 for petitioning to obtain leave to appeal, come into effect on November 1 and take the average cost of an appeal before the House of Lords to £4,500.

The concept of the pay-as-

you-go fee is to close the widening gap between the cost to the Exchequer of running the civil courts and the fees reaped from users. The present system is criticised in that everyone pays at the start of a legal action but only 3 per cent of summonses or writs issued ever reach a hearing. "The majority is therefore paying for the minority who actually use up a lot of court resources," one official said.

The full daily cost of the civil courts is estimated to be £1,000 for County Courts and



Boateng: fears justice would be for rich alone

£2,000 for the High Court. Officials are also investigating options for retaining an entry fee, such as for issuing a writ, with a reduced pay-as-you-go fee.

Another option would be to have a sliding scale so that the longer the case, the higher the daily hearing fee. However, the Lord Chancellor is also concerned that the fees should not be set at such a level that they deny people access to the courts.

Paul Boateng, Labour's frontbench legal spokesman in the Commons, said yesterday: "If these figures of £2,000 and £800 are being considered, I would say the effect would be to put justice out of reach of the ordinary consumer. The individual, who is already faced with the high cost of professional assistance, would be further prejudiced and disadvantaged by unacceptably high levels of daily fees."

If fees were to be increased, he added, the rise should be gradual and must ensure that those who use the courts on a regular basis pay a greater share than those who use them just occasionally to protect or enforce their rights.

Law Report, page 36



The Countryside Commission wants the £13.5 million Countryside Stewardship Scheme extended to cover the repair of dry-stone walls.

Farm subsidies 'spoil the countryside'

By Michael Hornsby, Countryside Correspondent

FARM subsidies are damaging the countryside and must be made more environment-friendly, a government advisory body said yesterday. The Countryside Commission called for spending to be doubled on schemes offering farmers grants to minimise destruction of plant and wildlife habitats.

The commission also attacked Defence Ministry plans to fire multiple-launch rocket systems on the Otterburn training range in the Northumbrian National Park, which "could result in the most adverse development in any National Park in

many years". On the subsidies issue, British farmers will this year receive £2.7 billion from taxpayers under the European Union's common agricultural policy. More than 95 per cent will subsidise food production rather than care of the countryside.

"Some of the CAP's most damaging aspects have been modified, but we believe the CAP and its associated measures continue to act against the interest of the countryside," the commission said in its annual report published yesterday.

The commission wants annual expenditure on the Countryside Stewardship Scheme raised from £13.5 million to £50 million within three years. Five thousand farmers have

joined the scheme since it was launched by the commission in 1991 and they are receiving grants to restore or preserve 60,000 acres of upland landscape, 50,000 acres of riverside meadows, 45,000 acres of lowland heath and 26,000 acres of chalk and limestone grassland.

One of the successes has been the recovery of a rare flower, the late spider orchid (*Ophrys sphegodes*), on a downland site in Kent. Re-introduction of sheep grazing and scrub control has resulted in at least 40 specimens being recorded there last year, compared with five in 1990.

The commission wants the stewardship scheme extended to cover the repair of dry-stone walls, afforestation

of derelict land on urban fringes and conservation of more chalk grassland.

A survey by the commission found that 87 per cent of the 70,000 miles of dry-stone walls left were deteriorating or derelict. Repairs are expensive, at £20 to £30 a yard. "The Government pays farmers grants to erect wire-and-post fencing, which makes it cheaper for them to put up a fence than to repair a wall," Mr Dower said.

The Ramblers' Association called yesterday for subsidies to Britain's 60,000 hill farmers to be replaced by a basic income supplement. In return, the farmers would be required to maintain stone walls, allow walkers access to moorland and restrict livestock to prevent overgrazing.

Lairds want right to cull protected birds of prey

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE leader of Scotland's lairds demanded yesterday that landowners be allowed to cull protected birds of prey, such as sparrowhawks, hen harriers and peregrine falcons.

Graeme Gordon, convener of the Scottish Landowners Federation, which represents 4,000 landowners, says various types of hawk are destroying grouse and garden birds. He wants the Government to issue licences allowing landowners to cull them and suggested that birds could be trapped and removed and nests and eggs destroyed in order to avoid killing them.

The call was immediately condemned by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, which said there was no evidence to justify it. Stuart Housden, the RSPB's director for Scotland, said: "Most birds of prey are still rare and are only slowly returning to their

former numbers before decades of illegal persecution and, persistent agricultural pesticides took their toll. Deliberate illegal persecution of these birds continues to be a real problem."

There were 170 reported cases of illegal killings of birds of prey last year, according to the RSPB. Gamekeepers were believed to be responsible for many of them. Hen harriers, peregrine falcons and sparrowhawks bore the brunt.

Mr Gordon, speaking at the Scottish meeting of the Standing Conference on Countryside Sports, said he knew his words would be regarded as "heresy" by some. But he said they were mainly urban people, "who are unable to accept that the countryside has to be managed and who now regard raptors as some kind of sacred creature."

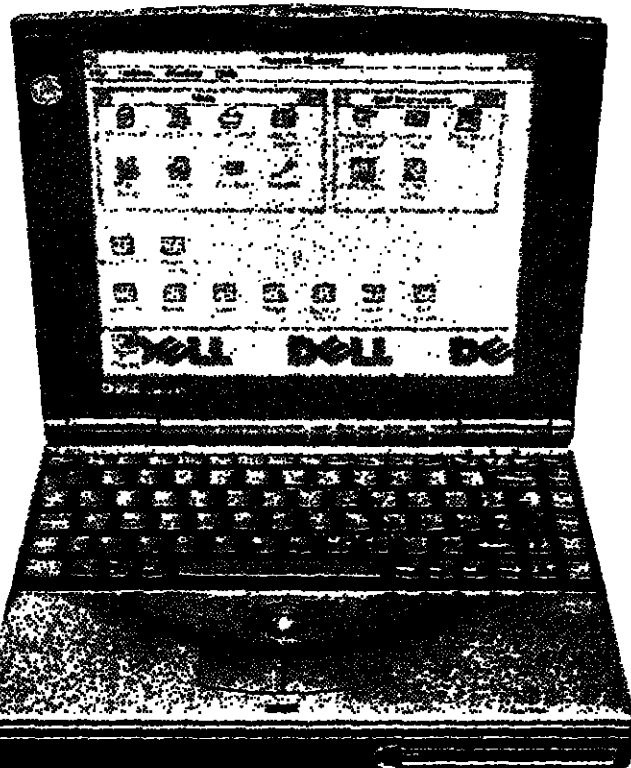
He said: "Twenty years ago at this time of year I could take

a small party of friends to walk over the hills in Galloway and hope to shoot a bag of grouse, partridge, pheasant, duck, snipe and maybe a blackcock or woodcock. Today it would be a barren walk."

Mr Gordon said part of the problem was the public's ignorance of country life. "The urban public is now a generation or more away from having everyday knowledge of rural life and does not understand the need for man to manage the balance of nature in a managed countryside."

Mr Gordon's call was also condemned by the Earl of Selborne, chairman of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee. "The three statutory conservation agencies will oppose any proposals for the licensed control of birds of prey. The populations of birds of prey should be allowed to reach equilibrium without direct control by man."

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Farmer shoots wolf that killed nine sheep

A WOLF being kept as a pet was shot dead by a farmer in Northern Ireland yesterday as it attacked sheep. The animal killed nine sheep and injured several others in Co Fermanagh before being shot.

The three-year-old wolf, called Chato, had been running wild for more than a week after escaping from a pen at its owner's home near Lisnaskea. Police and dog wardens tried several times to capture it alive, using meat as a lure, and were once within feet of it, but it ran off.

The farmer opened fire in a field at Bunclogher, an isolated mountainous area five miles from where the wolf escaped. James McFarland, who bought the wolf for £300 to cross-breed it with a German Shepherd dog, was distraught, according to friends. Police said: "We will want to speak to the farmer to find out the exact circumstances."

Inspector Mark Deane, of the Ulster Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said the farmer had no choice. "It's unfortunate, but the farmer has to protect sheep and look after his interests."

A giant red stag was being examined by vets yesterday after being captured at the end of a four-day hunt by the RSPCA. The stag, an adult male with a full head of antlers, was first seen on Saturday at Borth, Dyfed, and may have escaped from a farm. It evaded capture until RSPCA inspectors managed to tranquillise it at Clarach Bay, near Aberystwyth. "It's a complete mystery as to how it came to be in this area," an RSPCA spokesman said.

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Lottery millions to boost careers of young and talented

BY JAMES LANDALE, ALICE THOMSON AND PHIL WEBSTER

TALENTED young people are to receive millions of pounds in National Lottery funds for projects to boost their careers and benefit their local communities.

A plan by the Millennium Commission, one of the five distributors of lottery money, to create a "talent fund" will be unveiled next week. Yesterday it won cross-party support in the House of Commons.

Under the scheme, young athletes, artists, scientists, designers, musicians and inventors will receive bursaries for projects that develop their potential and help the community.

On Monday the Millennium Commission will begin a six-week consultation with charities and other organisations to decide how the scheme should work.

Yesterday Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary, backed the move, saying that talented young people tended to be ignored and should be given greater support.

During a debate on the National Lottery, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, was warned by a former Cabinet

minister against raiding lottery funds to pay for tax cuts in next month's Budget. David Mellor, who was National Heritage Secretary when the lottery was being planned, said that it would be a "spectacular own goal".

He said that the tax take of 12 per cent from the lottery proceeds had brought in £900 million this year, plus corporation tax on the profits of Camelot, the operator, and was a "nice little earner for our Ken". But he disclosed that the 12 per cent figure represented a defeat for the Treasury at the time. Its ambitions had been set at a much higher figure.

"One gathers there are senior figures in the Treasury who still bear the bruises of what they regard as a defeat in failing to get a tax rate that was higher. And if anyone should have it in contemplation to introduce a higher tax rate in the forthcoming Budget, I really must urge them to think again."

"In the history of own goals, that would merit a chapter all on its own."

An increased tax rate, which he said was allowed in the rules and 60 per cent of which would come out of prize money, would damage the credibility of the lottery.

Opening the debate, Dr

Cunningham attacked the "excess profit-making" by Camelot and urged the Government to ensure that more money went to charitable causes. A Labour government, he said, would set up a non-profit-making operator when Camelot's contract ran out, releasing much more money to sport, heritage and the arts.

Dr Cunningham challenged Mrs Bottomley to curb Camelot's profits, estimated at £1 million a week. He said there was huge public support for giving more money to charities. He also deplored any plan to replace government spending with lottery money.

Dr Cunningham branded the National Lottery Charities Board as "submerged in bureaucratic obfuscation" and attacked the delay in distributing funds. Only £40 million out of a total £213 million had been given out, he said. Labour would also create a lottery consumer council to oversee Oflot, the lottery regulator.

"We on this bench support the lottery. We want to develop and build upon its success. Our proposals would reinforce the best aspects of the lottery and make it more open, fair and accountable. The Secretary of State has the necessary powers to make



most of these changes now. She should do so."

Mrs Bottomley said the lottery had been a tremendous success. "It is a success which Labour's approach would ruin, denying an unprecedented opportunity for thousands of good causes to realise their dreams year after year." She

derided suggestions by church leaders that big prizes needed to be capped because they brought misery to the winners and denied that the lottery threatened a gambling epidemic. "Capping the prizes and cutting the fun is the route to equal distribution of very little. Big jackpots are the

route to generous distribution of a great deal."

She confirmed that lottery money was additional to public spending and ended with an attack on Labour's lottery policy, describing it as "snuff out success, punish profit and cheat the good causes of the deal they deserve".

Blair increases big poll lead over the Tories

By PETER RIDDELL

TONY BLAIR and the Labour Party have increased their commanding lead in the opinion polls since the party conference season.

A MORI poll for The Times shows that the display of public unity in the Tory party since John Major's re-election as leader in July has yet to alter voting intentions. Labour is now on 56 per cent, up five points over the past month after making gains among men and skilled workers. This is around the average level this year. Tory support has slipped one point on the month to 27 per cent, towards the top end of this year's range, while the Liberal Democrats are three points down at 13 per cent, at the bottom end of this year's ratings.

Party ratings have fluctuated in recent months after the leadership election and the rumblings of party discontent against Mr Blair in August and September. But the latest poll, undertaken last weekend, shows that the net effect has been to leave the parties roughly where they were in the spring. Any firming in Tory support since then has been very slight.

Mr Blair's personal approval rating, which dipped in the late summer, is now back to near its previous high levels. By a two-to-one margin, the public is satisfied rather than dissatisfied with his performance as Labour leader. Labour supporters approve of his record by a six-to-one margin.

Mr Major's rating with the public has barely been affected by the most harmonious Tory conference since 1992. This suggests it made more impact within the party than on the public. His approval index, measuring those satisfied rather than dissatisfied



with his performance, is now minus 36 points. This compares with minus 34 points a month ago, and minus 30 points in the spring. However, Mr Major has improved his position among Tory supporters. His approval index is now plus 34 points, down from that of the spring.

Satisfaction with the way the Government is running the country has increased to its highest level since April 1993, but is still only 35 per cent, with 78 per cent dissatisfied. Half of Tory supporters are dissatisfied with the Government's performance, with just over two fifths satisfied.

Paddy Ashdown continues to enjoy a positive rating as Liberal Democrat leader. A MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,929 adults at 150 ward sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on October 20-23. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (9 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or refuse to name a party (2 per cent).

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons, backbench debates were followed by Foreign Office questions and a debate on the National Lottery. In the Lords, debates on environmental issues in Central and Eastern Europe, Employment Rights Bill, Gas Bill, Industrial Tribunal Bill and promotion of tourism.

TODAY in the Commons, questions to Northern Ireland ministers and the Prime Minister, Debate on Mental Health (Public Health Bill), and a debate on the National Lottery. In the Lords, debates on environmental issues in Central and Eastern Europe, Employment Rights Bill, Gas Bill, Industrial Tribunal Bill and promotion of tourism.

MPs press Mackay to drop divorce Bill

THE Lord Chancellor will face strong Tory opposition today to his plans to reform the divorce laws (Arthur Leathley writes).

A divorce Bill, to be included in the Queen's Speech next month, would allow couples to divorce after one year rather than have to prove that they have been living apart for two years. It would also change the rules allowing divorces after

six, or even three months, in cases involving adultery or unreasonable behaviour.

Senior backbenchers will meet Lord Mackay of Clashfern today to press him to drop his plans, which they say will lead to more divorces. Cabinet ministers believe that, with up to 100 backbenchers opposing the Bill, a free vote would spare the Government any embarrassment.

More all-women shortlists imposed

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR's policy of women-only shortlists ran into further controversy last night when the party's ruling body decided to force the scheme on seven constituencies.

The National Executive Committee is to impose shortlists in six constituencies in the North West and one in London to speed up implementation of the scheme, which has already provoked widespread opposition. Under the party's policy, each region is required to field

women candidates in 50 per cent of vacant seats and marginal seats, as part of the drive to secure more women Labour MPs.

Although most constituencies have volunteered for the scheme, the NEC has imposed women-only shortlists for three seats, Slough, Gravesham and Great Yarmouth, after local resistance to the policy. Yesterday the NEC decided that party officers should immediately impose shortlists in the North West. It decided in principle to impose a shortlist in one London constituency but left the enforcement of that decision to the

discretion of party officers, to allow more time for volunteers to come forward.

The controversial scheme is to be reviewed after the general election, when it is likely to be dropped. Although Tony Blair wants to increase the number of women MPs, he is unhappy about imposing shortlists on constituencies.

Thirty-nine women-only shortlists, out of a potential 49, have been drawn up throughout the country and 34 women candidates have been selected. Leeds North East has had to draw up a new shortlist after its candidate, Liz Davies, was rejected by the NEC last month.

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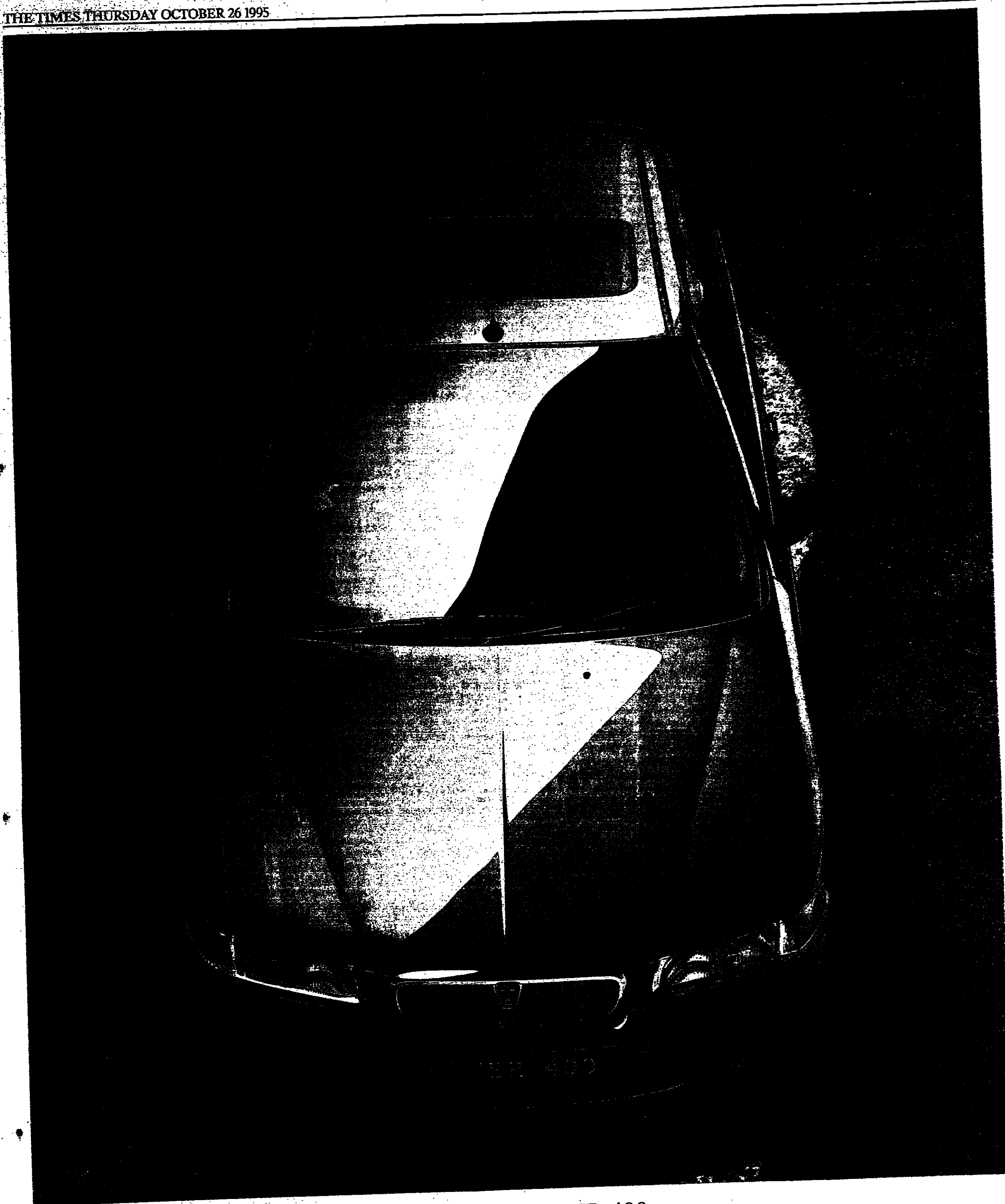
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Palestinians rejoice at end of Israeli rule in West Bank

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JENIN

A PARTY described by one Palestinian as "the mother of all celebrations" erupted in this northernmost West Bank town yesterday as Arabs marked the beginning of the end of nearly three decades of Israeli military rule.

As Israeli forces began a gradual, six-month evacuation from the West Bank towns, a frenzied crowd chanted "with soul and blood we will redeem you, O Palestine" as files were burnt outside the police station. Later, rocks were thrown.

Although only a token force of five uniformed Palestinian policemen armed with AK-47 assault rifles arrived from a detachment that will soon be expanded in Jenin to 1,000, they were greeted as liberators of land which Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman, predicted will become an independent state "within two years".

One of the banners stretched across dusty streets in which 179 Palestinians died during the intifada greeted the police as "the knights of the homeland". Another stated ambitions that have prompted many of the 144,000 Jewish settlers who remain in the West Bank to start forming a private army: "We start from Jenin our way to the capital of

New York: The United Nations' fiftieth anniversary ended in farce when Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation leader, was ejected from a concert because the Mayor, Rudolph Giuliani, said he had gatecrashed.

the Palestinian state," it declared.

As far as the eye could see, shops and houses flew the Palestinian flag. Before the peace treaty between Israel and the PLO, that act of defiance could be punished by a year in jail. More significantly, the flags were already flying on public buildings in many parts of the West Bank that the Israelis are not due to leave for weeks.

For those who had witnessed the Israeli withdrawals from Gaza and Jericho in 1994, there was one immediate difference to be noted in Jenin — the scores of Jewish settlements dotting the hills near by. Many of them believe an armed showdown with the 12,000 Palestinian police soon to move into the West Bank is inevitable.

"The only security that a person can invest in is their own training," said Brooklyn-

born David Schwartz, a 9mm pistol on his hip and a poster on the wall behind him reading "Peace Through Superior Fire Power". Mr Schwartz, a 34-year-old shooting instructor added: "Some settlers will take the [compensation] money and leave. Some will stay. And some will fight."

In Jenin, Palestinians did not hide their contempt for the settlers. "I do not mind ordinary Israelis, you have to live side by side with them. But not with the settlers, they always carry guns and they want our land," said Salah Abu Gharbia, a driver.

The problem of the 144 West Bank settlements, which Israel hopes to solve temporarily with a costly network of by-passes, and the question of control of Jerusalem have been put off until May 1996.

Meanwhile, even Palestinian fury at the US Congress's decision to transfer the American Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem by 1999, did not dampen yesterday's enthusiasm for the peace deal.

□ Sirte, Libya: Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, said he was suspending further expulsions of Palestinians, but demanded the right of return for all refugees of the Palestinian diaspora. (Reuters)



A West bank boy rises above the crowd in jubilation as Israelis leave the police station in Jenin yesterday. A token force of five Palestinians will replace them.

Britain expels Iraqi envoy accused of spying on students

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN yesterday expelled an Iraqi attaché in London after accusing him of collecting information about dissident students in Britain for the Iraqi intelligence service.

Khamis Khalaf al-Ajili, the administrative attaché at the Iraqi interests section in the Jordan Embassy, was declared persona non grata by the Foreign Office and given six days to leave the country. He was said to have "engaged in activities incompatible with his diplomatic status".

Officials said yesterday that Mr al-Ajili, who arrived in Britain in August last year, was known to be working for the Iraqi directorate-general of intelligence. He was one of two attachés permitted to remain in Britain, together with Zuhair Ibrahim, head of the interests section, although diplomatic relations were broken before the Gulf War. Officials speculated yesterday that Britain was unlikely to allow him to be replaced.

Iraq has no way of retaliating diplomatically, as there are no British diplomats in Baghdad. Consular matters such as visits to imprisoned British citizens, have been carried out on an informal basis by the Russians.

Iraqi opposition groups in London welcomed the expulsion, saying Mr al-Ajili was an intelligence agent who, like most of President Saddam Hussein's diplomats, worked

as a spy. Hamid al-Bayati, from the Supreme Council of Islamic Resistance in Iraq, said some of Saddam's mercenaries had been involved in collecting information about Iraqi political refugees and opposition members for months.

He said Baath Party cells had been active in London, threatening opposition members and attempting to obtain information about their movements. He added that the head of Saddam's private office, who defected recently, had confirmed that all secret service agents abroad were disguised as diplomats.

Officials described the surveillance as "extremely worrying", and a warning that governments must still be wary of Iraq. Despite strong pressure from other Arab countries to relax sanctions against Iraq, which Arab ambassadors in London say are counterproductive and rallying support for Saddam at home, Britain has opposed any relaxation of the United Nations embargo.

The Iraqi interests section had no comment on the expulsion. The last time Britain expelled a diplomat was in May 1994, when an Iranian envoy was ordered out for trying to distribute letters, bearing a forged signature of Douglas Hurd, that misrepresented British policy on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Jiang and Clinton fail to mend relations

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKEY IN HONG KONG

THE summit between President Jiang Zemin of China and President Clinton in New York was always doomed to be a molehill. Although its scheduled time was extended from 90 to 120 minutes, it was plainly an awkward encounter.

After the meeting, the spin doctors struggled. Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and former Ambassador to Peking, said: "We would put the stress on resuming dialogue and exchanges." Robert Suttering, the National Security Adviser, observed that whether relations were now normal was "a matter of definition".

At Peking's National Academy of Social Sciences, Jin Canrong, an expert on the United States, said although there had been no concrete results, the atmosphere had improved, then adding: "The possibility of ties becoming frozen again cannot be ruled out."

The blunt reality is that for almost 50 years' Chinese-American relations have been frozen, thorny or stormy with occasional intervals when Peking and Washington feigned friendship for mutually advantageous reasons.

Mr Clinton and Mr Jiang were not expecting much. A White House spokesman had warned that there would be no "long bomb", a reference to a daring American football play with dramatic results, and just before the meeting President Jiang, without mentioning it by name, tore into Washington in a United Nations address.

Mr Jiang exhibited his humiliation at not being accorded a White House State visit by turning down two venues — one had mounted an exhibit on human rights violations. The frosty meeting finally took place in a concert hall.

González refuses to resign

Madrid: Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, rejected demands to resign and dissolve the Cortes yesterday after his Socialist Government suffered its first serious defeat in 13 years. (Edward Owen writes.)

The opposition parties united to reject the 1996 draft budget because they wanted to express an "official" vote of censure against Señor González and his minority Government. He has been accused of approving death squads that killed alleged Basque terrorists.

Trial adjourned

Tokyo: The trial of Shoko Asahara, the Aum Shinrikyo cult leader accused of masterminding the Tokyo underground gas attack that killed 11 people in March, was adjourned when he sacked his lawyer. (Reuters)

Train hits bus

Fox River Grove, Illinois: An express commuter train was hit a school bus at a level crossing, killing five people and injuring 30. The accident happened in a suburban area 40 miles northwest of Chicago, police said. (AP)

Call to scrap poll

Zanzibar's ruling party has called for the nullification of the Tanzanian island's first multi-party elections hours after the main opposition party made allegations of vote rigging and threatened civil disobedience.

Talks threatened

Miami: The arrest of Fernando Yanez, a suspected Zapatista guerrilla commander, on a weapons charge, has threatened to derail peace talks between the Mexican Government and Indian rebels in the southern state of Chiapas.

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THE TIMES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook



High-flying dreams: Roger Hurst, chief executive of Smiths Industries, said the company is prepared to invest up to £400 million in the aerospace sector, which is showing signs of a revival after a spate of large orders including work for the Apache helicopter and the Boeing 777. Story, page 27

Gas shares slump after £1bn liabilities warning

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH Gas shares dropped to their lowest level of the year yesterday after Clare Spottiswoode, the Director-General of Ofgas, said that the company potentially faced liabilities of more than £1 billion for expensive gas that it could not use.

The shares fell 10p to 236p, passing their previous low of 243p. They have been as high as 317p this year, but have been in a rapid decline since the summer, when it became apparent that the glut of cheap gas was the market would damage British Gas's earnings.

The company welcomed Ms Spottiswoode's comments. A spokeswoman said: "It's helpful to have recognition that there is a problem and that something needs to be done."

British Gas could not, however, estimate the potential liability of the take-or-pay contracts. It said the ultimate

cost depended on factors as diverse as its future share of the commercial, industrial and residential markets, the weather and the construction of an "interconnect" link between Britain and the Continent, which could export some of the surplus.

Although the company had already disclosed that its long-term "take-or-pay" contracts were forcing it to buy gas at twice the current spot market price, Ms Spottiswoode's comments rattled the investment community. She said: "I'm quite concerned that if the problem is not manageable, then we should be planning to do something about it."

Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, urged North Sea suppliers to renegotiate their contracts with British Gas. He said: "It is clear that BG can no longer assume all the market risk of selling gas."

Mr Eggar said the Govern-

ment would have to remain neutral on the issue, but he was prepared "to act as moderator or facilitator to assist the commercial process should I be called upon to do so."

He denied that his speech, made at an energy industry seminar in London on Tuesday night, was timed to coincide with Ms Spottiswoode's comments in order to put pressure on British Gas's suppliers. "I was not aware that Clare had given that interview. There was no conspiracy. Furthermore, I said nothing in that speech that I hadn't said before."

British Gas signed most of the take-or-pay contracts, some of which are as long as 30 years, before its privatisation in 1986. They gave the company long-term security of supply at a time when it had a monopoly on the market.

The company blames the Government for much of the oversupply problems. The deregulation of the commercial and industrial gas market has seen British Gas's market share drop to 35 per cent. It stands to lose even more business in 1998, when the domestic market is thrown open to competition.

The price of gas, meanwhile, has plummeted. The

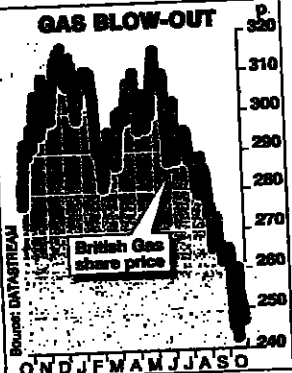
spot price is now less than 10p per therm, compared with the 20p or so the company pays under its long-term contracts.

British Gas recently issued a profits warning and said it had already paid £500 million so far this year for gas it could not sell. A provision of £50 million to £100 million will be taken to cover the difference between the contract price and the eventual sale price of the gas.

Analysts think British Gas will have some success in renegotiating the contracts. They said it is unrealistic for gas suppliers to force British Gas to the wall when they have been given the right to enter its markets.

Mr Eggar said: "It is in the industry's best interests to renegotiate some of those contracts."

Pennington, page 27
Gas bubble, page 29



Norwich Union rating cut

By PATRICIA TERHAN
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

STANDARD & POOR'S, the leading credit rating agency, has downgraded its financial strength rating for Norwich Union, the mutual life insurance firm, saying the society will struggle in an environment of reduced sales volumes.

Richard Harvey, Norwich Union's finance director, said he was disappointed at the decision. "I understand that they might be concerned about the sector, but we feel that we have been addressing the challenges of the sector and have demonstrated that we are an outperformer," he said.

S&P lowered its rating of Norwich Union from A plus to AA minus. The agency said that if Norwich Union goes ahead with plans for a flotation in 1997, the potential addition of capital to the group and the access to capital markets that it would provide could enhance its views of its financial strength. However, S&P added that such an event was too speculative to affect the rating.

S&P said its downgrade reflected its pessimistic view of the UK life industry generally.

Gilt auction success boosts markets

By GEORGE SIVELL

GILTS soared yesterday after the Bank of England's £3 billion gilt auction was subscribed almost two times, a marked contrast to last month's flop which had been the first auction to be undersubscribed.

The success brought relief to markets that had become concerned about the Government's ability to fund the public sector borrowing requirement after the September flop which had also put question marks over the size of any tax cuts the Government might offer in the Budget. It

was the most successful auction since June. The offering of £3 billion of 20-year gilts at 8 per cent was covered 1.97 times. The stock was up 1 1/2 p on the day at 98 at which it yields 8.18 per cent compared to an average accepted price in the auction of 96.25.

The highest yield accepted was 8.33 per cent. Dealers said that several large gilt houses had made high bids, knocking smaller bidders out of the auction altogether. September's auction fell almost £30 million short and that was after what was described as

considerable arm-twisting by the Bank of England. The PSBR for the year to March 31 is forecast by the Treasury at £24.6 billion but most economists expect an overshoot of some £3 billion to £5 billion.

The PSBR has reached £20.37 billion so far this year but the calculations are complicated by the bulk of government revenues falling in the last few months of its financial year. The PSBR has been reduced by lottery funds, one City analyst suggested yesterday. David Mackie, at JP Morgan, says the large sums

temporarily held by the National Lottery Distribution Fund have reduced the PSBR this year by £700 million.

He says that, between the start of the lottery in November, 1994, and September, £1 billion flowed into the fund, effectively into Government coffers, but only £50 million was paid out. He believes that £300 million will have gone towards last year's PSBR and £300 million towards the PSBR this year.

Pennington, page 27
Markets, page 28

Lord Owen to bat for Middlesex

By ROBERT BOYD

PHIL EDMONDS is heading back to the pavilion and Lord Owen has stepped up to the crease. Middlesex Holdings, aluminium, oil and coal trader in the former Soviet Union, yesterday announced that Lord Owen has been appointed executive chairman. He replaces Phil Edmonds, the former England spin bowler, who will remain a director of the company until June 1996.

When he hung up his negotiating hat in June this year, Lord Owen said: "I want to earn my living in the markets of the world." Indeed, he will earn £50,000 a year to supply background strategy and contacts. The company claims that he will work between three and

four days a week. Masoud Ali Khan, chief executive, said yesterday: "David Owen has an important contribution to make to Middlesex not least through his extensive range of contacts across the world."

Lord Owen appears to have more far-reaching objectives, stating: "I have long believed that a transformation of the economy of the Russian Federation and other CIS states holds the key to a prosperous and peaceful world."

For a company operating in as volatile a place as the CIS, Lord Owen appears to be an ideal choice to ensure a degree of stability and reliability. However, it is not the case that anybody who touches Bosnia



Owen: strategy

seems to make enemies in Moscow? An insider at Middlesex explained that this potential difficulty had been discussed at length by the

board and that "on balance his wide range of contacts outweigh any negative side".

Middlesex also said it had formed Revenant, a subsidiary, with Sir David Alliance, chairman of Coats Viyella, the leading textile group of which Lord Owen is a non-executive director. Revenant, to be owned 60 per cent by Middlesex and 40 per cent by Sir David, is part of Middlesex's expansion plan and will engage in the worldwide export of steel products from the CIS.

Lord Gowrie has been appointed non-executive chairman of Development Securities, the property investment and trading company. He replaces Michael Wigley who is retiring, but who will remain a non-executive director.

National Grid flotation planned for December 11

By ERIC REGULY

NATIONAL GRID, the electricity transmission company jointly owned by the 12 regional electricity companies, will become a listed company on December 11 in a flotation valued at close to £3.5 billion.

Up to 22 million private electricity customers will receive a one-off rebate of £50 after the float. The rebate will be paid by the electricity companies early next year.

The long-delayed flotation was announced yesterday after Hanson, which recently bought Eastern Electricity, finally received a letter of comfort from Inland Revenue regarding the tax implications.

The flotation—technically a demerger—will not raise any proceeds. The electricity companies will simply pass their Grid shares to their shareholders, who will be free to keep them, and receive dividends, or sell them in the market.

The Grid, which will be renamed National Grid Group, forecast that it will pay dividends of about £175 million for the year to end of March 1996, and about £190 million in the following years. The precise yield is unknown because the value of the grid shares cannot be determined until they start trading.

About 1.7 billion shares are expected to be issued. That means the shares, assuming a flotation value of £3.5 billion, will initially be worth about 205p apiece.

The entire demerger process is designed to be "cash neutral". The Grid will pay a special dividend of £872.5 million to the electricity companies to cover the capital gains tax payable on the difference between the initial value of the Grid shares and their flotation price. The special dividend will also help to cover the £50 customer rebate.

An extra rights dividend of £66 million, designed to "level" the relative payments to the electricity companies, will raise the Grid's total cash outlay to £938.5 million.

Holders of the new Grid shares will not have to pay capital gains tax until the shares are sold. The dividends will be taxed like normal dividends.

Four Grid directors are collectively entitled to about £322,000 of special dividends because they have exercised share options that gave them a small equity stake in the company. Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister, and several electricity companies thought the directors should forfeit the dividends in light of the "fat cat" executive pay scandal.

The directors refused. But, in a surprise move yesterday, John Uxley, finance director, said he would donate his dividends, worth £64,000 pre-tax, to charity.

The others plan to keep theirs. David Jeffries, chairman, receives £200,000. Eric Chefnux, engineering director, receives £38,000 and Colin Gibson, network director, £20,000. David Jones, chief executive, will not receive special dividends because he only recently joined the company.

Mr Jones said the flotation will give the Grid the freedom it lacks under the ownership of the electricity companies. He said: "We had to go back to the companies for approval for anything we wanted to do. It was getting increasingly difficult to get a consensus."

As an independent company the Grid will pursue power transmission projects overseas. Its first project, worth £400 million, is in Pakistan.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FT-SE 100	3537.8	(+2.5)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE All share	1730.35	(+1.05)
Nickel	17970.81	(-43.44)
New York	4785.98	(-17.70)
Dow Jones	584.23	(-2.31)
S&P Composite	584.23	(-2.31)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Long Bond	107 1/2%	(107 1/2%)
Yield	6.31%	(6.32%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	100%	(104 1/2%)
Future (Dec)		

STERLING		
New York	1.5793*	(1.5790)
London		
\$	1.5791	(1.5785)
DM	2.2227	(2.2204)
FF	7.7470	(7.7270)
SP	1.8028	(1.7942)
Yen	163.55	(162.71)
£ Index	83.7	(83.6)

DOLLAR		
London	1.5203*	(1.5245)
DM	4.2979*	(4.2865)
FF	1.1347*	(1.1360)
Yen	101.39*	(100.50)
£ Index	82.9	(82.6)

Tokyo cross Yen 100.42		
London		
£	1.5793*	(1.5790)
DM	2.2227	(2.2204)
FF	7.7470	(7.7270)
SP	1.8028	(1.7942)
Yen	163.55	(162.71)
£ Index	83.7	(83.6)

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$15.95	(\$15.95)
London close	\$82.55	(\$82.55)
* denotes midday trading price		

Right formula

SmithKline Beecham, the pharmaceutical group, says that revenues from new drugs continued to offset the impact of falling sales of Tagamet, the superdrug that cured ulcers and which is now used to treat indigestion. Tagamet lost its patent in May 1994 and market share fell sharply in the US. Page 30

Liffe table

Because of technical difficulties, we have been unable to update the Liffe options table on page 28 in this edition. We apologise for the repetition of Tuesday's closing prices.

IT'S ALREADY HELPED OVER 95 COMPANIES TO RAISE THEIR SIGHTS

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London STOCK EXCHANGE

Warning on Magnox 'millstone'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

NUCLEAR leaders yesterday gave warning that the privatisation of the industry was being threatened by the Government's failure to decide where the liabilities should fall for decommissioning Britain's ageing Magnox atomic power plants.

British Energy, the umbrella company being formed from the planned merger of Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, wants to go private with as little load as possible from the £4 billion decommissioning costs for the Magnox stations, leaving it in the private sector with only the more advanced AGR reactors. But ministers are insisting that the privatisation should go ahead with BE carrying as many of the liabilities as possible — partly to fend off public criticism that the most expensive parts of the industry are being left behind in the public sector in what will become Magnox Electric, though the eventual plan is for the Magnox stations to be taken over fully by British Nuclear Fuels before they reach the end of their lives some time in the first decade of the next century.

After being questioned yesterday on the industry's future by the all-party Commons' Trade and Industry Select Committee, Robert Hawley, Nuclear Electric's chief execu-

tive, said: "If the Government wants us to be a viable company in the future we cannot go out with a millstone round our necks."

Dr Hawley, who will also be BE's chief executive, said that how much of the liabilities BE would carry would, in effect, set the price of sale in the privatisation. In evidence to the select committee, nuclear leaders said that the two Magnox decommissioning so far had cost less than forecast, but they admitted that the cost of full decommissioning could be a significant factor in the price City investors might be prepared to pay for the nuclear industry.

While NE puts its total gross nuclear liabilities at £25.5 billion, and analysts expect that most of this AGR-related liability will be carried into the private sector, the argument with the Treasury will revolve around the £4 billion Magnox liabilities and the cost of as yet unused nuclear fuel.

Written evidence from NE to the committee showed for the first time that of the £7 billion fossil fuel nuclear levy expected to have been received by the end of 1995-96, £503 million will have been used for other purposes, including new investment and in the upkeep of existing capital assets — especially Magnox.



The Golf Monthly team emerged victorious in The Times City Diary Square Mile Golf Challenge, which was held at Stoke Poges Golf Club, in Buckinghamshire, yesterday. More than 30 teams competed for the title.

Perks ease pain at the Bank

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TWENTY years ago Bank of England staff joined straight from school or university. Not only had they got a "job for life", but they would never get a job there any other way.

As the letter to staff from Eddie George, the Governor, demonstrated this week, those days are long gone. Staff numbers have fallen from more than 7,000 in the mid-

1970s to 4,000. The reduction started with the abolition of exchange controls in 1979, and has continued ever since.

In his letter, Mr George admitted that morale was low among most staff and that "people see considerable scope for improvement in the way we manage the Bank".

Job cuts, recruitment policy changes and the threat over

the future of banknote distribution functions in the regional branches have damaged morale. Staff are concerned about job security and unhappy about the way information is communicated to them.

Those who lose their jobs lose not only their means of support, but perks that go with working at the Bank. Highest profile is the Bank's

plush and heavily subsidised sports club in Roehampton, southwest London, venue of the qualifying tournament at Wimbledon and used by the 1966 World Cup-winning England football team. The club is used by staff who live in that part of London, but not by the majority of clerical workers who live east of the City. The Bank has recently tried to recover some of the cost of the club, opening it to local residents and companies.

The biggest loss to most staff would be mortgage assistance. There are three schemes, depending on when staff joined the bank. Under the present scheme, staff pay a 5 per cent mortgage interest rate and the Bank picks up the difference. They benefit too from a non-contributory index-linked pension scheme. The Bank also owns a yacht, The *Ingomar*, enjoyed by Mr George among others, although they pay to charter it. Famously, its mast fell off last year and staff had to be rescued.

The Bank is generally viewed as a good employer, despite the poor morale, and staff are said to have reacted well to setting up of task forces to address the problems.



	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
Australia \$	2.22	2.08
Austria Sch	13.76	13.00
Belgium F	48.25	45.95
Canada \$	2.204	2.104
Cyprus Cyp	0.744	0.689
Denmark Kr	9.17	8.57
France F	7.20	6.25
Germany Dm	1.14	1.08
Greece Dr	375.00	354.00
Hong Kong \$	12.85	11.85
India Rupee	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.197	4.547
Italy Lira	2036.00	2000.00
Japan Yen	172.50	169.50
Malaysia	3.562	3.337
Netherlands Gld	2.618	2.395
New Zealand \$	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.35	9.35
Portugal Esc	204.00	225.00
S Africa Rd	161	141
Spain Ptas	166.00	160.00
Sweden Kr	11.10	10.30
Switzerland Fr	1.33	1.25
Turkey Lira	7500.00	7000.00
USA \$	1.578	1.548

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates are at close of trading yesterday.

Ban for Asda on some discount sales

ASDA, Britain's third largest supermarket group, was yesterday banned by the High Court from offering discounts on a range of vitamins, minerals and supplements manufactured by Hanson and Roche. Earlier this month, Asda cut prices by 20 per cent on a range of more than 80 products in defiance of manufacturers' rights to set prices on non-prescription medicaments. A few days later, the Office of Fair Trading launched a review of RPM.

As a result, Asda has to restore the prices of Seven Seas products, which are made by Hanson, and of Sanatogen products, made by Roche, to RPM levels. However, no injunctions have yet been sought by other manufacturers affected by Asda's price-cutting move. Sainsbury, meanwhile, is understood to believe that the legal moves were an own goal by the suppliers. Sainsbury is cutting prices on its own label products in reaction. An own label 60-pack of vitamin C now costs £1.59 at Sainsbury. The RPM price is £3.75.

Redwood criticises rules

JOHN REDWOOD yesterday called for far lighter regulation of the City and an overhaul of the Financial Services Act. Mr Redwood, who was Corporate Affairs Minister from 1989-92, said laws designed to protect the small investor were placing an intolerable burden on City firms. Many of the rule books, forms and regulations covering financial services should be swept away. "The law-abiding City is paying too high a price for the crooked minority," Mr Redwood told a London conference organised by BT Financial Services.

VW sales ahead 10.9%

VOLKSWAGEN, Europe's largest carmaker, reported strong sales growth in the first nine months of the year, the latest sign of its move to become more competitive. Group sales climbed 10.9 per cent during the period to DM652 billion, boosting group net profit to DM185 million. The company reported a DM73 million loss for the first nine months of 1994. VW added that it expected a "clearly better" result for 1995 as a whole than it had in 1994. It said the results were especially good since warning strikes had hit production.

Repossession actions up

LEGAL actions by mortgage lenders to repossess residential properties are increasing again, according to figures published by the Lord Chancellor's department. Mortgage possession actions taken in the county courts of England and Wales in the third quarter rose to 22,091 against 19,560 in the previous quarter and 21,345 in the first quarter. The number of court orders being issued is also rising, with 19,048 made in the latest quarter compared with 18,801 and 18,830 in the second and first quarters of 1995 respectively.

Cookson sells for \$92m

COOKSON GROUP, the international specialist industrial materials group, will raise \$92 million through the sale of Synthetics Products Company (Synpro) to America's Ferro Corporation. Goodwill amounts to \$24 million. The disposal was originally announced in August. Synpro, of Cleveland, Ohio, produces chemical additives for the plastics and rubber industries. At June 30 net assets were \$46 million. Operating profits were \$9.3 million in the year ending December 31.

Marley acquisition

MARLEY, the building products group, is acquiring Pacific Dunlop's Plastics Group for £21.6 million, doubling the size of its plastics operation in Australia and New Zealand. The business had total sales of £42.7 million in the year to June 30 and operating profits of £4 million. Activities include distributing compounds for the building, footwear and packaging sectors. Marley announced the sale of its former head office site at Riverhead, Kent, for £4.5 million.

WPP lifts revenues

WPP, the advertising group, enjoyed third-quarter revenue growth of 9.5 per cent. The company, split between the UK and US, won high-profile contracts from Kodak, Heinz and Unilever as it moved further to penetrate the US market and expand in Asia. Debt was cut to an average of £233 million (£291 million) in the nine months to September 30. The performance puts Martin Sorrell, chief executive, on course to collect a bonus of up to £25 million in four years' time.

Last CAA founder quits

BILL HABER, the last remaining founding partner of Hollywood's Creative Artists Agency, has resigned. Mr Haber who owns 22.5 per cent of CAA, is to become special assistant to the president of Save The Children Federation, a charity, although many believe he has other plans inside entertainment. His exit follows departures of Michael Ovitz and Ron Meyer, his two founding partners. Mr Ovitz joined Disney, while Mr Meyer departed to run MCA, the film studio.

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□ Contract problems at British Gas □ Success for the gilt auction □ Shedding light on feudal customs

All adrift in the North Sea

THE duties of the Director-General of Gas Supply, as laid down in the 1986 Gas Act, include securing the supply of gas, protecting the consumer and promoting efficiency. The Act says nothing about second-guessing City analysts, making off-the-cuff remarks about the financial stability of the biggest supplier, or undermining the share price of the same.

For that matter, the duties of the minister for industry do not normally encompass interfering in contracts, however unprofitable, entered into without coercion between private parties.

But Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, was clearly up to the first when she suggested that British Gas might face financial collapse, and Tim Eggar, the Minister, was clearly up to the second when he suggested that the company's share price was being manipulated.

Ms Spottiswoode's remarks, at first sight, look unguarded. But taken along with Mr Eggar's contention that the "take-or-pay" contracts entered into by British Gas should be altered and the company's share price should be brought back to reality.

Together they look like an attempt to apply pressure for

some renegotiation that would allow British Gas to operate profitably in the post-1996 fully competitive domestic market.

Mr Eggar is keen to push himself forward as honest broker to any such efforts, not least because British Gas is one of the most widely held shares on the stock market. A descent into dire poverty and any threat to dividends would not be the best advertisement for popular capitalism or the Government's privatisation programme.

Those gas contracts, like any contractual arrangements, can be scrapped or amended, but there would seem to be little reason, other than sheer altruism, why the producers should let British Gas off the hook. The Government's decision to bring forward full competition in the domestic market have combined with the falling gas price to put the company in this quandary.

That said, some insiders suggest that the threat of earlier deregulation was flagged up by British Gas when some of the

later contracts were being signed but ignored by the company.

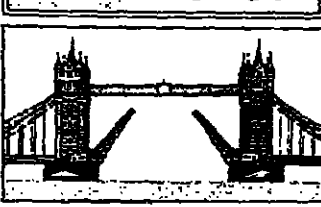
Mr Eggar may be concerned with those contracts, but Ms Spottiswoode's terms of reference, under the original Gas Act, are rather wider. She must ensure that those supplying gas are able to finance themselves, but she is also charged "to protect the interests of consumers of gas supplied through pipes in respect of the prices charged". She has made it clear that where those duties contradict each other, it is the interests of consumers that will dominate.

Ken bets on a sure thing

YESTERDAY'S gilt auction had to be a success, coming so close to the Budget and just after the September 10th that threatened to blow a hole in the Chancellor's public borrowing strategy.

The stock, therefore, was priced to go, an existing bench-

PENNINGTON



mark with the longer 20-year maturity preferred by the institutions rather than the new issue sold in the last auction. The Treasury has shown it can pull off a success, and last month's debacle can be safely put down to special factors such as European monetary union and woes on continental bond markets. The outlook for public sector borrowing is rather more uncertain.

Kenneth Clarke has just one more set of PSBR figures to go before he stands up in Parliament and reveals just what size of tax cuts is politically necessary, if not economically advisable. The City now knows

this year's borrowing targets will not be met and is gambling on the size of the overshoot, of perhaps £5 billion on the £23.6 billion Treasury forecast.

The omens for the next monthly figures are not good, with VAT and corporation tax receipts falling. If they are not as bad as expected, the Chancellor may take this as ammunition for his tax cuts. But the prospects for gilts and forthcoming auctions in the months thereafter, before those cuts have had their effect on revenues, are still dubious.

One more thought. The Government's inflation target is 2.5 per cent. A sale of stock paying a real rate of 5.5 per cent does not seem to show much confidence in that forecast.

Standing in the City

THE City is still a weirdly feudal place, even if its arcane ways are lost on most of the thousands who commute there

each day. Few customs are as feudal as the election of its aldermen, as Malcolm Matson knows to his cost.

Mr Matson, a businessman formerly in telecoms, was elected to the post, a largely ceremonial one whose main significance is as a pre-qualification to becoming Lord Mayor. He stood against a City councillor, and then found himself blackballed by the other aldermen, the first such ban since the 1970s.

He sought relief in the courts, and in July the Court of Appeal in part supported him, saying he should have been told the reasons for his disqualification. This week he again went before his peers for a second interview and vote and was required to provide further information. He may learn his fate next week.

Mr Matson was elected in the normal way, even if his electorate is a limited one — the 25 aldermen rely between them on 6,000 residential and 12,000 business votes. The geography of the wards in the City means that

a qualifying business — a big accountancy firm, for example — can dominate a single ward.

No one will say just what it is the City has against him. There are three criteria. His financial standing would seem acceptable, his knowledge of the City ditto considering how much of it he dug up in his previous job. The third is a rather vague question of suitability. His chances look slim — the vote was 17 to 2 last time. But at least he will be told why his face does not fit.

Jeremiah's lament

A RECRUITMENT expert has proved that we in Britain work too hard. Long hours cause tiredness and affect morale, health and performance, and there is no sign of a let-up in the pressure. While anyone's personal life can suffer, women, apparently, come off worse than men and are three times as likely to be divorced. A second such Jeremiah shows that when women do manage to get out of the office and travel, they are treated as second-class citizens by airlines, hotels and car hire companies. Why is it such evidence of widespread tiredness and depression only leaves one feeling tired and depressed?

Smiths Industries may invest £400m in aerospace sector

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

SMITHS INDUSTRIES, which is working on the Apache helicopter, has signalled growing confidence in aerospace prospects, saying it is preparing to pump about £400 million into the sector.

The company, which has cut 44 per cent of its workforce in this area over the past three years, said it was prepared to fund a purchase with borrowing and paper.

Alan Thomson, the group financial director, said Smiths was becoming more positive on aerospace, as large orders, such as the Apache, the Boeing 777 and the F-18 fighter, begin to move into production and the expected upturn in the

industry moves closer. Mr Thomson, who said he thought aerospace would begin to show a strong upward movement next year, said the group had been fortunate in the orders it had won and after the restructuring, was well placed to maximise its profits. In the year to August, Smiths, which expects £150 million sales on the Apache, improved margins in aerospace slightly to 10.7 per cent and said it had continued R&D spending at a rate of 10 per cent of sales.

Overall, Smiths showed a strong benefit from its medical and industrial arms which it has been steadily adding to

recently using some of the cash generated by aerospace.

Medical systems account for 45 per cent of operating profits, having climbed from 25 per cent five years ago. The company, which achieved a 34 per cent rise in profits in medical instruments to £63 million, has benefited from an increasing presence in the US. Here, instruments such as a Walkman-like device which can feed in drugs to patients at given times have caught on to the burgeoning care in the community market.

Smiths' industrial division also showed a 34 per cent increase in profits to £37.6 million as a range of acquisitions began to feed through. Over the past three years Smiths has added seven businesses to its industrial portfolio at a cost of £134 million. Its activities include household extractor fan production and the manufacture of vacuum-cleaner cables. Roger Hurn, chief executive, said there were encouraging signs that the momentum in Smiths' industrial sector would continue.

The total dividend is 14.4p, a rise of 11 per cent with the final payment due on January 5.

Temps, page 28

Direct Line chief extends contract to 1998

By PATRICIA TEHAN

PETER WOOD, the founder of Direct Line, Royal Bank of Scotland's telephone insurance operation, has moved to allay concerns that he is poised to leave to set up a new US venture, by extending his contract until 1998.

Mr Wood, who is on holiday in Spain, agreed to the changes to his contract by telephone after a RBS

board meeting approved them yesterday. Under his current contract, he was free to give a year's notice from January, which meant he could have left in January 1997. He will not now be able to give notice until 1998.

Dr George Mathewson, chief executive of the bank, said: "There has been an awful lot of uninformed speculation and we felt that the market would be happier to see that Peter was committed

to the Royal Bank." His modified contract will also permit him to set up a Direct Line-style operation in the US. Under US legislation RBS would be limited to a 5 per cent investment in that operation. If Mr Wood goes ahead, the bank would consider such an investment. It would also receive payment if the Direct Line branding was used.

The bank said yesterday that Mr

Wood's new contract will permit him "to invest, together with a number of other associates, in a new US company which will engage in the direct selling of motor and household insurance in the USA, Canada and Mexico".

Dr Mathewson said discussions in relation to the US venture were still at an early stage, and no decision had been made on whether the bank would make an investment.

Ruling may hit Lloyd's

ABOUT £1 billion of extra claims could hit Lloyd's of London after the Court of Appeal upheld an earlier ruling that reinsurers have the right to collect their own reinsurance, even if they have not paid the underlying claim (Sarah Bagnall writes).

In total, the ruling is expected to trigger claims of

up to £3 billion. The ruling has implications for attempts by Lloyd's to put together a £2.8 billion settlement package for its names. The judgment, which follows a ruling by Mr Justice Mance in June, will affect the size of premiums each syndicate must pay to off-load liabilities to Equitas, the reinsurance company.

The ruling may hit Lloyd's of London after the Court of Appeal upheld an earlier ruling that reinsurers have the right to collect their own reinsurance, even if they have not paid the underlying claim (Sarah Bagnall writes).

In total, the ruling is expected to trigger claims of

EFG makes £8m Casket rescue bid

By ROBERT BOYD

CASKET, the troubled bicycle manufacturer behind the Falcon, Townsend and British Eagle brands, is being rescued by EFG, the garden centres group.

Yesterday EFG launched an agreed £8 million all-shares bid for Casket, valuing each share at 8.5p. Casket has approximately 28 per cent of a UK bicycle market worth about £300 million a year. The new enlarged group will be called Tandem.

Casket, Britain's number two after Raleigh, recently announced losses of £12.3 million for 1994, due mainly to the crash of Heidelberg Fairtrade, a German subsidiary acquired in 1993.

The Leeds company made headlines with its plans to sell Chris Boardman's Olympic Gold Lotus superbikes. But it suffered an increase in borrowings and a reduction in its asset base which pushed gearing unacceptably high.

EFG, formerly the Economic Forestry Group, also gave its interim results for the six months to July 30, alongside the announcement of its change of direction. The company reported a pre-tax profit of £2.1 million, including £1.7 million from the sale of Nightingales Garden Centre, against £600,000 last time. Turnover was down £0.4 million to £6.1 million and margins fell slightly.

Casket closed a 2p up at 7.5p. EFG slipped 1p to 10p, but EFG directors were buying in Mervyn Keene, finance director, bought 25,000 shares and Keith Hamer, non-executive director, bought 500,000.

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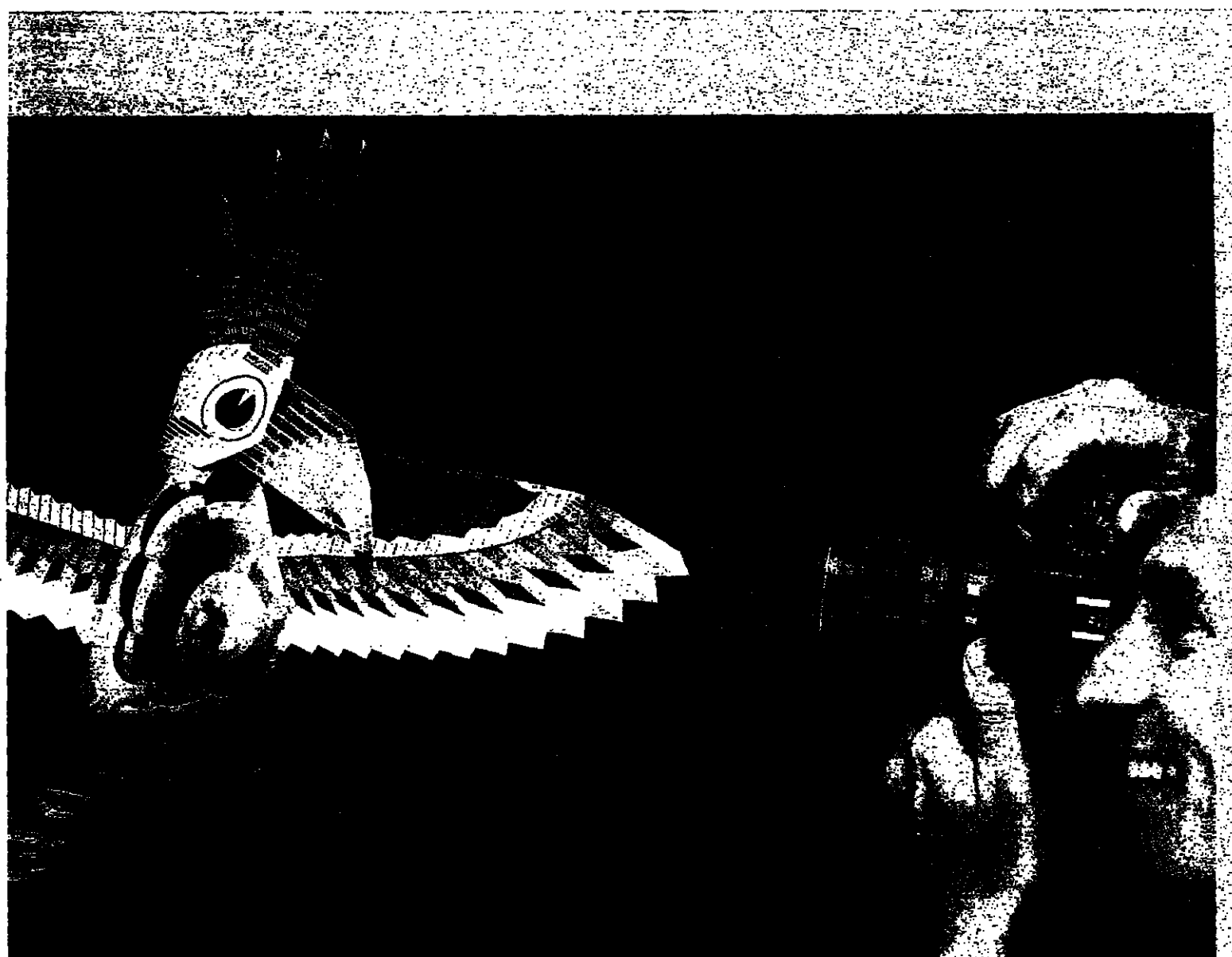
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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP FANGALOS

Equities struggle to stay ahead as gilts hold stage

GILTS held centre stage, switching attention from a dull equities market, after strong demand for the Bank of England's latest £3 billion auction ensured healthy covering.

Failure of any of the numerous bid stories to materialise and an early slide on Wall Street dampened sentiment in late London trading. The FT-100 index could not hold an early 16-point rise to above the 3,500 level, ending up just 2.5 points at 3,537.4. Volume reached only 635 million shares, with selective demand for special situations as well as drug and bank shares.

Concern about over-supply in the UK gas market and the impact of long-term take-and-pay contracts knocked British Gas 1p lower to 236.4p, on heavy volume of 20.7 million shares. There were also losses for other North Sea gas producers such as Laxmo, 4p softer at 151p, Enterprise, down 5p to 336p, and JKC Oil and Gas, 14p lower at 186p.

The regional electricity companies (RECs) showed little reaction to news that December's lotation of the National Grid will provide dividends of £175 million in the year to March and £190 million in the year to March 1997. Each of the 12 RECs customers will get a discount of £50 on their bills.

Among water stocks, North West Water advanced 18p to 588p, on volume of 3.2 million shares, after a buy recommendation from UBS, the broker.

Lakis Athanasios, leading water analyst at UBS, suggests that the shares are too cheap and that there is some way to go, with a level nearer 630p seen to be fair value.

Walesley, the building materials group led the way among brighter building-related stocks, boosted as several redemptions, including Merrill Lynch, Kleinwort Benson, and Flemings, turned positive on the stock's long-term prospects. The shares advanced 20p to 396p.

Elsewhere in the sector, Travis Perkins added 9p to 314p, Meyer, 15p to 355p, Redland, 4p to 354p, Hepworth, 7p to 286p and Barrat Developments, 6p to 197p.

Meanwhile, Boots reversed early gains to end ½p softer at 549p as hopes faded that Asda's discounting proposals for over-the-counter medicines can be opposed by litigation. Asda firmed 4p to 100½p, up 1p at 100½p, on volume of 13



Bob Flashman, left, and Mike Wright saw UDO advance

million shares. Elsewhere in the retailing sector, Laura Ashley stood out with a 4p advance to 128p, on heavy volume of 4.85 million shares, while Kingfisher firmed 3p to 485p in the wake of a recent Superdrug presentation.

Reports of a James Capel recommendation helped NatWest add ½p to 656p, though Barclays dipped 2p to 740p.

Further buying of Polypipe, up 2½p to 168p, prompted renewed talk of a bid for the maker of plastic pipes and fittings. City sources suggest that a bid is indeed in the pipeline for the company, which is capitalised at £264 million, at between 200p and 225p. IMI, down 4p at 332p, is thought to be a frontrunner.

with evidence of switching into NatWest.

However, shares in ASW Holdings, the engineering-to-retails group, tumbled 20p to 176p after a profits downgrade by SBC Warburg, the broker, who is understood to be concerned about ASW's margins, which have come under increasing pressure.

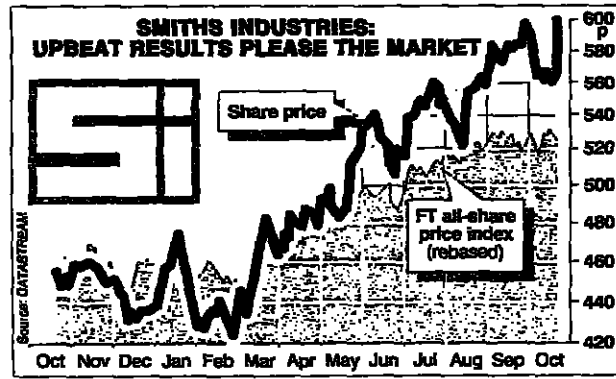
Resters lost ground, sliding 10p to 557p before imminent

third quarter figures and a teleconference. Analysts are anxious to hear how the group is progressing, with many cautious of a slowdown in trading after the group signalled sluggish revenue growth at the halfway stage.

Cadbury-Schweppes climbed to 533p, before ending unchanged at 525p, after early speculative trading following

a Swiss report that Nestlé, which already owns Rowntree in the UK, may bid for the company. Most dealers doubted the report's accuracy, pointing to probable chocolate monopoly problems in the UK, and possibly in France, if any such bid were to materialise.

Meanwhile, upbeat third quarter figures from Smith-Kline Beecham were well



received by the market and shares in the Anglo-American drugs giant were marked up 9p to 673p. The positive sentiment rubbed off on Oxford Molecular, which jumped 2p to 283p.

Elsewhere, Smiths Industries advanced 15p to 580p after the aerospace to medical systems group unveiled record full-year profits, with strong growth from all divisions.

UDO Holdings climbed 8p to 251p after the supplier of drawing office equipment and reprographic services where Bob Flashman is managing director and Mike Wright chairman, accompanied a 33 per cent jump in full-year pre-tax profits to £6.5 million with confidence of further growth.

Bid speculation in the paper and packaging sector saw Bunnit firm 4p to 198p, on volume of 2.8 million shares, while David S Smith climbed 3p to 581p.

There EMI fell 2p to £14.94 as a line of stock went through the market at £14.95, with NatWest Securities said to have transacted the deal.

First Leisure was a good market, adding 18p to 346p. Creos International, a developer and manufacturer of medical imaging, made a sparkling debut on the Alternative Investment Market. Placed at 65p, it surged to 139p before settling at 109p.

GILT-EDGED: The gilt market breathed a sigh of relief after the Bank of England's £3 billion auction of Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was covered by bids by a higher-than-expected 1.99 times, in contrast to last month's auction, which was undersubscribed. A few of the larger players are understood to have taken stock, which led to a scramble among some of the smaller buyers.

The December long gilt future raced to a high of £106½, before settling at £106½, on heavy volume of 107,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks shorts added ½p, while medium-dated stocks climbed by ½p. Longer-dated issues enjoyed the best gains of up to ½p. Index-linked stocks rose by ½p.

NEW YORK: US shares extended their losses by mid-day, with the Dow Jones industrial average 17.70 points lower at 4,765.94. Financial issues came under pressure from profit-takers after their recent bull run.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 4765.94 (-17.70)

S&P Composite 584.23 (-2.31)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 17970.81 (-43.49)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 9841.86 (+65.83)

Amsterdam: EOE Index 483.23 (+2.67)

Sydney: ASX 2050.10 (+0.81)

Frankfurt: DAX 2150.13 (+36.53)

Singapore: Straits 2102.87 (+12.43)

Brussels: CMC 7750.84 (+52.98)

Paris: CAC-40 1764.12 (+39.91)

Zurich: SMI 694.50 (+6.33)

London: FT 100 3537.4 (+2.5)

FTSE Mid 250 4056.4 (+1.6)

FTSE-A 350 1760.5 (+1.1)

FTSE Europe 100 1732.87 (+0.76)

FTSE All-Share 1736.25 (+1.08)

FT Non Financials 1846.22 (+0.97)

FT Financials 110.86 (+0.02)

FT Govt Secs 93.19 (+0.62)

SEAG Volume 635.3m

USM (Dow Jones) 184.29 (+1.28)

US 1.795 (-0.0022)

German Mark 2.013 (+0.0078)

Exchange Index 63.7 (+0.1)

Bank of England official rate (4pwt)

LECU 1.0484

RPI 150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987-100

RPIX 149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Abstrust Asian Sml 92

Abstrust Asian Ws 32

Cons Coal (50) 64

Cons Coal (100) 109

Euro Sales Ptn 130

German Sir Ws 18

Indi Radio 114

Multimedia (45) 61

Murray Vct 103

Pemberton 60

Pictet British (100) 103

Preston Nth (400) 400

Upton & Sth Ws 103

RECENT ISSUES

Baris n/p (16) 2

Premier Land n/p (5) 4

Stordata Sols n/p (12) 6

RECENT ISSUES

CMC Micro 1310 (+140)

Filmcom (400) 4550 (+130)

Northbrook 2250 (+210)

JSA Holdings 3800 (+210)

Pegasus 2210 (+120)

First Leisure 3460 (+120)

Wickley 4520 (+200)

Telepost 9100 (+110)

Meyer Int 3550 (+150)

Jones Stroud 4300 (+150)

Chrysalis 3480 (+110)

Standard Chart 5140 (+110)

Travis Perkins 5140 (+180)

Previous open interest 10400

Unipol 4480 (+110)

McGraw Hill 4820 (+110)

JBS Sports 4850 (+190)

Smiths Ind 5800 (+150)

FALLS:

Syco 1140 (-180)

Spinch 1140 (-140)

SW 1750 (-200)

JOC Oil & Gas 1860 (-140)

British Gas 2260 (-110)

Darika Bus Systems 3080 (-80)

AIM 5570 (-80)

Reuters 5570 (-100)

EMAP 5570 (-100)

Closing Prices Page 34

A matter of life and death

THE success of Smiths Industries is a mixture of skill and cure. The aerospace and medical operations of the group are curious bedfellows but have proved a winning combination. Throw in the company's light-industry division, which now embraces vacuum-cleaner parts and household extractor fans, and it is clear that most of human life is here.

Smiths has been steadily adding to its medical division, especially in the US, using some of the cash generated by aerospace. It has done so with impressive results, showing an increase in operating profits of 34 per cent. Despite the tough pricing pressure on drugs and medical products across the Atlantic, the huge appetite there for care in the community has helped keep Smiths' exposure in a healthy state. A lucrative device for Smiths in the UK, and one set to make a large impact in the US,

is a portable machine that feeds medication to patients at regular intervals, freeing them from hospital beds.

While its right hand cures the sick, the left hand of Smiths is pocketing bigger profits from aerospace than some of its competitors, benefiting from both a slowdown of operations and big orders such as the Apache helicopter which should generate £150 million over the next eight years.

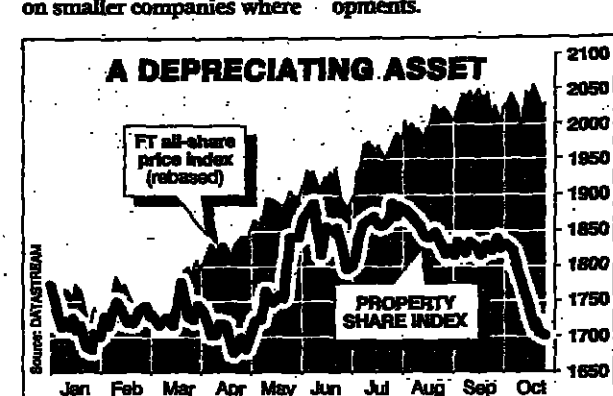
Smiths' margins are on the rise again, having edged up to 11 per cent. That is still a long way from the 15 per cent achieved four years ago but the impact of volume and operational gearing should generate further gains. Smiths could amass cash resources of about £400 million and is prepared to sink it into a major aerospace acquisition. That says much about its optimism.

Property shares

PROPERTY shares are again in the dumps as investors come to terms with the continuing lack of rental growth. Among the worst affected of the larger companies are those, like British Land, with high gearing: a useful tool when values are rising but when the price of property is on the slide, debt becomes a curse. According to Richard Ellis, commercial

many buildings are let at rents well in excess of market rates. Only adding to investors' concerns is the worry that the Accounting Standards Board next year will recommend that companies depreciate their assets. Investors still interested in the sector need to avoid the property leaders and focus on smaller companies where

entrepreneurial managers can generate results in a poor market. Among these are Burford, which will soon de-gear itself with the flotation of the Trocadero, and Development Securities, which has persuaded Hausinvest, the German fund, to finance two large Central London developments.



Enterprise Inns

Enterprise Inns is the latest independent pub group to turn to the stock market as a means to an end. Venture capitalists who backed pub buy-outs in the late 1980s are now looking for a quick exit while managements are looking for cash to expand.

Flotations should satisfy the interests of both parties. Enterprise will be able to reduce its gearing from more than 130 per cent to about 50 per cent but the cash will be rapidly reinvested, the company hopes. A stronger balance sheet will allow it to add 300 houses to its existing estate of 486 tenanted pubs.

Further expansion is the key to growth at Enterprise and the rest of the pub groups. Volume sales of beer in pubs are declining while wine and spirits increase but even at the best - which tend to be managed by the landlord rather than tenanted - sales growth is limited.

Enterprise does not man-

age its pubs but earns a rent from tenants and takes a turn on the sale of beer. Hence the price earnings multiple of 10.1 times compared with the aggressive multiples of 20-plus times accorded to managed pub operators such as Wetherspoon.

Institutions are aware of the business parameters of the sector, with limitations on organic growth from tenanted estates which depend more heavily on beer volumes.

For Enterprise to succeed, it must buy good pubs and sell more beer at good margins. There are some 60,000 houses in Britain but competition for those in good locations is intense and as more groups raise cash from the stock market, pub prices will rise.

Middlesex

Having seen his diplomatic and negotiating skills replaced by Nano hardware in the war-torn state of Bosnia,

Lord Owen is turning to the business sector but he will still be able to use his contacts in points east. Phil Edmunds, the retired England cricketer, is handing over the reins of Middlesex Holdings to the retired politician who becomes executive chairman. Middlesex dabbles in trade in the former Soviet Union, supplying products to a smelter in Tajikistan in exchange for aluminium. It also has interests in oil, coal, gold and now steel, thanks to a new venture financed by Sir David Alliance, a long-time business partner of Middlesex chief, Masoud Alkhan.

Having survived Bosnia, Lord Owen will be well equipped to deal with the rough and tumble of business in the former Soviet Union. However, he has the support of friends at Middlesex. Lord Owen is on the Coas Wye board, where Sir David is chairman.

EDITED BY CARL MORTSHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCAOA

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Tuckey's future

HOW many professional lives does Andrew Tuckey have? The former deputy chairman of Barings resigned after the \$660 million crash but was rehired as a consultant in his field of corporate finance. The 52-year-old banker is understood to be a key member of the team advising Lloyds Bank on its proposed \$15 billion merger with TSB. Now senior executives at ING, the Dutch bank that owns Barings, have again discussed Tuckey's future after revelations in the press about his private life have sharply divided staff and clients. Tuckey has left his wife of 30 years for Tracy Long, a Barings staffer in the corporate finance department, who resigned three weeks ago. With Nick Leeson fighting extradition to Singapore and James Bax, Leeson's former boss in the Far East, forced to remain with his young family in Singapore (possibly even to appear in the dock along with Leeson), many feel Tuckey's timing and judgment are "questionable" and "unfortunate". Tuckey is expected to survive for the very practical reason that "other clients might walk out the door with him," says an insider.



Tuckey: consultant

Buying forward

I AM sold tickets for tomorrow evening's Big Bang Ball are changing hands for about £100 each, more than double the £39 sale price, as despairing City types make one final attempt to buy a place at one of the Square Mile's liveliest annual parties. Up to 3,000 guests are expected at the "Cafe Royal in London's West End, raising a big sum for the Lord Mayor's Appeal, this year raising money for the British Heart Foundation. The event celebrates the ninth anniversary of Big Bang, which in 1986, when many of tomorrow's revellers were probably still at school.

Heavy metal

THIS week also saw Raj Bagri, chairman of the London Metal Exchange, happy to report seven fat years of business for his exchange at its members' annual black-tie dinner. The timing was impeccable, as it was 75 years to the day from the start of the tin crisis which almost wiped out the LME.

Humbug

THE country is heading for the warmest October in 300 years, it is yet two months to the winter solstice, and the clocks have only just gone back. But, alas, at least one big chain of stationery retailers has already replaced all its tasteful gift-wrapping paper with Christmas Santas, robins and ruddy-nosed reindeer.

Presley plastic

AMAZING they had not done it before, but here it is: the Elvis Presley credit card. Issued by a bank in Memphis, it will display three images of the King. Designed for true blue Elvis fans, it offers the user a 10 per cent discount on anything purchased at Graceland. Some proceeds go to the Elvis Presley Memorial Foundation, a charity.

Budget can offer no easy escape from slow growth



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Britain apes America's formula but ends up with European stagnation

More than ten years ago, the late Charles Douglas-Home, then editor of *The Times*, took a platoon of his journalists on a working visit to Bonn, to get first hand the German view on anything from economic policy to West Germany's still daring *Ostpolitik*. On the financial side, there was much room for British humility. But the diet was not solely humble pie and sauerkraut.

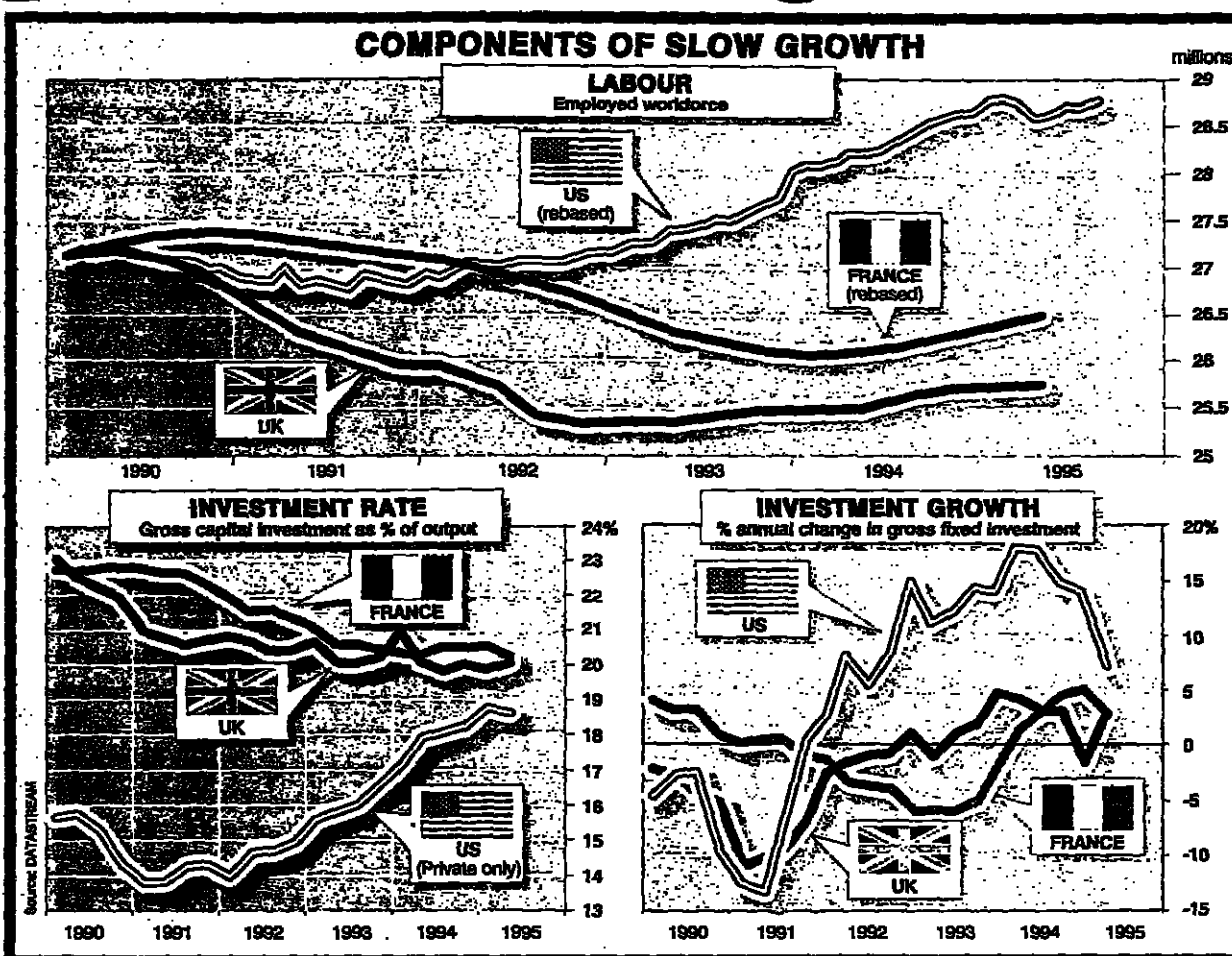
Those were the high days of Reaganomics and, in Britain, the innocent days of Thatcherism. Trade union excess was being curbed, uncompetitive industries shut. Privatisation was getting into full stride and leaner, fitter industries were climbing out of a cathartic recession into what was projected to be a golden age of non-inflationary growth and "real" jobs.

The British had to bow to German titillation in the arts of micro-economic management on interest and exchange rates, inflation, and avoiding crises. America was, however, enjoying much more rapid growth on a regime of deregulation, free markets, tax cuts and fiscal irresponsibility.

The Reagan locomotive left European currencies puffing behind a dollar supported by high interest rates. *Dirigiste* European economies clanked along too slowly to employ those who wanted to work. Americans diagnosed *Euro-sclerosis* in economies too bureaucratic and inflexible to create jobs or compete freely with Pacific manufacturers.

"Britain was somewhere in the middle, fiscal and monetary responsibility was to go hand in hand with deregulation to raise the sustainable pace of growth. Britons could therefore debate with Germans. Once the Brits earned credit in financial markets for their new-found macroeconomic virtue, they would outpace continental, slowed by state monopolies, subsidies and distorted labour markets."

In 1995, however, little seems to have changed, save that Japan has been dragged into the laggards' camp. Percentage growth rates of EU countries read like the judges' scores for a terminally clumsy gymnast: Germany 2.3, France 2.7, Italy 3.3 (sadly a blip), Spain 2.9, The Netherlands 2.5 — and Britain about the same. But unemployment rates would be judged over the top. The Netherlands 7.2, Britain's 8.3 and Germany's 9.3 fail to keep



the EU average below 11 per cent. Forecasts for 1996 are not too fancy either. Meanwhile, America is near the end of its third successive year of growth above 3 per cent and forecast to do it again in 1996. Unemployment, traditionally higher than in Europe, is around 5½ per cent. Such gaps can no longer be put down to different phases of the economic cycle.

Germany acquired new provinces and opportunities. The single European market swept away trade barriers, residual exchange controls and many internal restrictions. British privatisation spread across the Continent. So why are growth rates stuck at levels that disappoint most voters: too low to bring full employment and, in some cases, to sustain an ageing population well?

Doctors now diagnose a nasty case of the European exchange-rate mechanism instead of *Euro-sclerosis*. Keeping up with the Schmidt has cost France dear. Even Germany carries the burden of a chronically strong mark. Last week, Ford's chief executive joined the chorus complaining that high costs make it uneconomic to manufacture in Germany. The ERM exports West German stagnation to its neighbours. Anglo-Saxon critics still point to the high labour costs imposed by social laws, inflexible job markets and high employer taxes.

Britain is symbolically free from a fixed currency or the Maastricht social chapter. In 1994, the one strong recovery year, devaluation helped exports to drive the economy. Flexible markets and cheap labour attract inward investment from non-EU multinationals. Again, the Treasury is establishing non-inflationary credentials. Again, Britain is mid-Atlantic. Yet the economy is growing at European rates and falling off. Most economists forecast a better 1996 only because they expect Kenneth Clarke to indulge in pre-election naughtiness.

When the Bank of England gives interest rate advice, it has in mind a production function that implies the economy is likely to grow at a long-term rate of about 1.75 per cent a year. By implication, much

Takeovers are faster, safer and easier for managers than investment

more would be inflationary. The Government is banking on nearer 2.5 per cent. In the simplified model, growth comes from investment, extra labour and a catch-all group of "technological" supply factors. These cover anything from inventions to freer trade and have contributed a long-run average 1.25 per cent a year.

Capital investment is contributing about 0.5 per cent. But the surge predicted to take over the growth baton, keeps being put forward. A year ago, the Treasury predicted a 5.75 per cent increase this year. It will probably be no more than 4 per cent, partly because public sector investment has been delayed by the private finance initiative. CBI and

Bank of England studies found many firms still using absurdly tough financial tests for new investment, as though they expect a return to recession, inflation and high money interest rates. City analysts predicted that top companies would instead use their fast-growing financial surpluses to mount a big takeover binge. It is happening on cue. Takeovers are faster, safer and easier for managers. Remember Eurotunnel. The latest CBI survey found that manufacturers, who have been investing more than most, are having second thoughts.

Britain's employed workforce rose unusually fast during the late 1980s as the bulk of married women joined in. Since then, however, it has fallen. Job losses are still counteracting most new jobs.

America's growth potential is perennially swelled by immigrants, some legal. US business investment is not high — hence stagnant living standards — but has grown at more than 12 per cent a year since 1993. No wonder America is growing faster.

Can Britain escape from its straitjacket without being ashamed to look the Bundesbank President in the eye? Labour calls for "a Budget for investment", as do accountants at Coopers & Lybrand. But what is that? C&L suggests abolishing capital gains tax, and giving even more tax relief to bribe wealthy individuals to offer venture capital. Labour probably would not. Both agree that the private finance initiative needs a boost. Kenneth Clarke will doubtless announce one. But no big change in private

Keeping the gas bubble under control

Eric Reguly assesses the problems for British Gas as it reappraises contracts

British Gas had a curious reaction to Clare Spottiswoode's comments that "take-or-pay contracts" threatened the company's long-term survival. Instead of accusing the Ofgas director-general of hysterical over-reaction to a potential liability of unknown proportions, British Gas seemed positively beholden. A spokeswoman said: "It's helpful to have recognition that there is a problem and that something needs to be done."

If British Gas likes Ms Spottiswoode, it will love Tim Eggar, the Energy Minister. In a speech given the same day that Ms Spottiswoode made her remarks, he said it is "in the best long-term interests of producers" to renegotiate their supply contracts with British Gas. He said he would be prepared "to act as a moderator or facilitator to assist the commercial process should I be called upon to do so".

A cynic might accuse British Gas, Ofgas and the ministry of collaboration. Indeed, British Gas in September warned shareholders that it was locked into buying enormous amounts of gas that it did not need at prices well above the market level. The company is now trying to renegotiate these contracts.

British Gas's predicament is not all its own doing. Most of its long-term gas purchase contracts were struck with North Sea suppliers before 1986, when the company was privatised. Such contracts attempt to balance price with security of supply.

There have been cases, notably in eastern Canada, when buyers opted for the cheap route and bought "spot" gas, only to see the supplies disappear when other buyers offered to pay more. At the time the contracts were struck, British Gas had a monopoly: it could sell all the gas it bought because it controlled every burner in the country, from household stove to industrial furnace. These contracts contained the usual "take-or-pay" clauses, which required British Gas to pay for the gas whether it could sell it or not. Then the Government changed the rules of the game. First the commercial and industrial gas markets were thrown open to compe-

tion. British Gas's share of the market above 2,500 therms has now dwindled to about 35 per cent. This is lower than anyone's forecasts. A 1993 Monopolies and Mergers Commission report predicted 50 per cent.

British Gas's market share will fall even further when the domestic market is deregulated. The MMC recommended opening that market in 2002. But zealous government free-traders moved the date forward to 1998, with pilot programmes beginning next spring.

Gas prices, meanwhile, have plummeted. The surplus — the result of warm weather — new supplies from North Sea developments and the loss of market share by British Gas have created a "gas bubble". Spot gas prices are 7p to 9p a therm, compared with the 20p paid by British Gas for its long-term supplies. In September, the company said it had paid £500 million so far this year under its take-or-pay obligations. The question is whether British Gas can renegotiate these

contracts to reflect the radically altered market conditions. Although Ms Spottiswoode and Mr Eggar appear to be rooting for the company, it is fighting an uphill battle. Ms Spottiswoode, despite her warnings that British Gas faces a potential liability of more than £1 billion, seems to agree. In a newspaper interview, she said she wonders "why North Sea producers should bother to renegotiate with British Gas".

Analysts nonetheless think the company will have some success. They think it would be unrealistic for suppliers to demand full payment from British Gas when they have been given the right to nibble away at its markets.

In a report, Simon Flowers, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said suppliers "will conclude that selling lower volumes of gas in the short run — probably at moderately lower prices — may be acceptable in return for higher volumes later on." The process will be long and complicated because the suppliers have the upper hand. In the end, Ms Spottiswoode and Mr Eggar can only watch events unfold.

Eric Reguly predicts a debt crisis if Quebec secedes

Living together is cheaper

Just three weeks ago, it appeared that Quebec's secessionists were, once again, fighting a losing battle. Poll after poll showed that next Monday's referendum, which will ask Quebec voters whether their province should separate from Canada, would go against them.

Then the tide began to turn. Sensing a repeat of the 1980 referendum, in which the separatists were narrowly defeated, Lucien Bouchard, the leader of the Opposition in the federal House of Commons, sprang into action. He has played down the risks of independence. A "yes" vote, he has assured the cautious electorate, will install Quebec with a new sense of pride and confidence. It will give the province a mandate to negotiate an economic partnership with the rest of Canada that is truly in its best interests.

The message has sunk in. The latest polls show the secessionists ahead, albeit by a margin of less than one percentage point. The markets, fearful of an economic Bosnia in the making, went into full-blown panic.

On Monday, the Toronto Stock Exchange 300 index plunged 123 points — the



Lucien Bouchard has been playing down the risks

biggest one-day fall in six years. The Canadian dollar fell by more than a cent against the US dollar and treasury bill prices collapsed. The yield spread between 90-day Canadian treasuries and their US equivalents grew from 110 basis points to 170 basis points. Nervous Quebec investors began moving their funds out of the province. A Canadian market analyst in New York said: "It's an across-the-board meltdown... The market is sending a message to Quebec to expect more of this if you do vote 'yes'."

Share prices, regardless of which way the vote goes, are likely to recover. But such a recovery would not be enough to offset the inevitable debt crisis, one that could paralyse Canada and Quebec for years if the separatist forces get their way. The reason: Jacques Parizeau, Quebec's Premier, has threatened to withhold the province's share of payments on the national debt unless it gets a sovereignty agreement it can live with.

The greater amount of federal and provincial debt in foreign hands — perhaps more than 40 per cent — is the main reason why a "yes" vote in this referendum would have more serious implications than in the last one.

A "yes" vote would undoubtedly trigger a wholesale sell-off of Canadian debt issues. Debt ratings agencies would place the issues on credit alert, increasing the cost of borrowing, then downgrade them, increasing the cost of borrowing again. The Bank of Canada would have to raise interest rates; short-term rates are climbing already. If they go high enough, Canada could plunge back into recession.

The tragedy is that Canada has gone out of its way to accommodate Quebec in recent years. The province effectively is a sovereign society already. Its latest move is beginning to look like a cynical effort to avoid paying its fair share of the national debt. The loser will be one of the world's most peaceful and prosperous countries.

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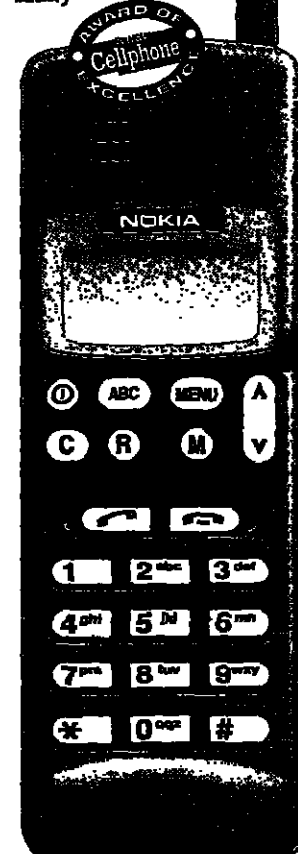
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Vero to give staff £3.2m float reward

EMPLOYEES of Vero Group, a supplier to the mobile communications industry, will share £3.2 million as a reward for the company's stock market flotation (Christine Buckley writes).

Vero, which plans to raise £45 million through an offer and placing which will lead to a full listing, is to give all 1,450 staff, but not the board, an award of shares or, for overseas employees, a cash bonus.

Brian Gay, managing director, said market capitalisation of the company, bought by its management two years ago from BTCC, should reach about £125 million. A pathfinder document forecasts operating profits for the year to end-December of £12.6 million, up 52 per cent.



Chris Thomson, Vero finance director, left, and Brian Gay, managing director, aim for a full listing

New drugs help SmithKline to absorb Tagamet downturn

By MARTIN BARROW

SMITHKLINE Beecham, the Anglo-American pharmaceuticals company, said revenue from new drugs continued to offset the impact of a downturn in sales of Tagamet, its former money-spinner.

The company said sales of new pharmaceuticals products advanced 26 per cent in the three months to the end of September, helping to lift group turnover from continuing operations by 16 per cent to £1.7 billion. Despite the

strong growth in sales, pre-tax profits in the third quarter advanced 9 per cent to £310 million, affected by higher interest charges and taxes related to acquisitions and higher capital expenditure. Analysts had forecast pre-tax profits of between £305 million and £320 million.

Third-quarter earnings were 1 per cent higher at 7.9p and the quarterly dividend is 3.2p. SmithKline shares rose 9p to 673p yesterday, a new high for the year.

Jan Leschly, chief executive,

said: "SB turned in a strong operating performance, staying on track to meet 1995 financial goals. Our new products continued to show good growth more than offsetting the expected decline in prescription Tagamet sales in the US."

Tagamet, an anti-ulcer and anti-acid drug, has long been the main money-spinner of the group, but it lost its patent in May 1994 and its US market share dropped sharply in the face of cheaper generic rivals.

Mr Leschly said higher corporate operating margins resulting from savings from the integration of over-the-counter medicines business of Sterling, bought in 1994, had more than offset the loss of Tagamet sales and downward pressure on prices. He said the launch in America of Tagamet HB, the over-the-counter version of Tagamet, was "an outstanding achievement" and that the drug had gained rapid market acceptance.

He said: "We expect the flow of new products to continue on the strength of our own pipe-

line and through collaborations with other companies."

For the nine months, pre-tax profits rose to £1.48 billion from £929 million, with earnings advancing 4 per cent to 24.5p. Sales and profits from continuing operations rose 20 per cent and 17 per cent respectively at comparable exchange rates. Pre-tax profits, excluding exceptional items, increased 4 per cent. Exceptional items include a gain on the disposal of the animal health business to Pfizer for £512 million.

Roxspur's shares suspended

Shares in Roxspur were suspended at 6.4p yesterday as the company embarked on talks with its main shareholders and banks to try to secure a financial restructuring.

The company blamed a sharp deterioration in trading at Wills Group, which makes electronic and electro-mechanical components, acquired via a £27.6 million recommended share offer in March.

Roxspur, which originally made playground equipment and street furniture, said the problems at Wills had caused severe short-term cashflow difficulties within the group. A further announcement is expected today or tomorrow.

AIM hits 101

The Alternative Investment Market, the Stock Exchange market that succeeds the Unlisted Securities Market and the now-defunct Rule 4.2 matched bargain trading facility, has broken through the century mark. Two new entrants, Creos International, a developer and manufacturer of medical imaging equipment, and Clan Holdings, a property company, yesterday pushed the number of AIM-listed companies to 101.

Galaxy sold

Chrysalis Group, the broadcasting and leisure group, is acquiring Galaxy Radio, which holds a regional FM radio licence for the Severn Estuary area, from GWR Group for £4.1 million. GWR acquired Galaxy as part of the £20.6 million takeover of Chiltern Radio in July. It is estimated that Galaxy made a trading loss for the year to September 30.

Milk shake-up at Northern Foods

By OUR CITY STAFF

NORTHERN FOODS is to reorganise its Midlands business in a swap deal with Associated Co-op Creameries. Northern is transferring its doorstep delivery business in Cleveland, Co. Durham and parts of Yorkshire and Derbyshire. In return, Northern is paying £850,000 and taking on East Midlands milk delivery businesses from Associated Co-op.

In a separate deal, Northern has sold its Colwyn Bay dairy and six distribution depots in North Wales to Longslow Dairy for £4.5 million. The company also confirmed it will axe 322 jobs when dairies in Hull and Middlesbrough close early next year.

The cutbacks, originally announced in the spring, are

part of a radical restructuring that will eventually see Northern, based in Hull, shed 40 per cent of its milk bottling business. The offer will raise about £44 million, with Enterprise set to receive net cash of £18.6 million. Dealings start on November 6.

Enterprise intends to use the proceeds from the flotation to cut present borrowings of about £45 million. The company lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £5.66 million in the year to September 30, on turnover ahead 8 per cent at £24.6 million.

Enterprise Inns shares set at 145p

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SHARES in Enterprise Inns are to cost 145p each, capitalising the independent pub group at £58.7 million when it floats via a placing and intermediaries offer next month.

Enterprise now has after some sales, 496 pubs in the Midlands, Yorkshire and the North West. It was formed in a £50 million management buy-in from Bass in 1991, and is led by Ted Tuppen, chief executive, and Michael Cottrell, chairman. Enterprise expanded its original estate of 368 pubs by acquiring 85 more from Allied Domecq in 1994 and a further 45 from

Whitbread earlier this year. Enterprise's estate was valued at £84.2 million last month. The offer will raise about £44 million, with Enterprise set to receive net cash of £18.6 million. Dealings start on November 6.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Roasting an old chestnut

David Haigh on how finance directors may soon value brands

As the smoke clears from the ASB's public hearings into the treatment of goodwill and intangible assets, it is looking increasingly likely that a draft standard will be ready by the spring, coming into effect for accounting periods ending December 1997. It seems that little emerged to alter the ASB's draft proposals.

Where brands can be reliably valued, it should become standard practice to include them on the balance sheet. Where it can be demonstrated that they have a probable life of more than 20 years, and subject to an annual review, they will not have to be amortised. The new standard will apply to all acquisitions after the implementation date, with transitional proposals allowing companies to restate transactions.

Will finance directors yawn apathetically now that the old chestnut has finally been roasted? It has been suggested that the number of companies regarding it as useful to restate their figures will be small. However, it will almost certainly be in the interests of companies with acquired "blue chip" brands to display them on the balance sheet. There seems little in the transitional proposals to prevent firms cherry picking their

portfolios for brands which are likely to hold their value. Capitalising them would enhance the appearance of the balance sheet without affecting earnings.

Leading underwriters are seriously considering providing cover for brands which have been valued by professional valuers. Any permanent diminution in reported value would crystallise a claim. Not only would this protect balance sheet assets, but it would immediately improve the ability of companies to securitise debt against brands.

Such a development would lead to the syndication of brand risk in both insurance and lending terms. This would create a market in brand assets not previously considered possible. It might even satisfy the IASC's requirement that only where a market exists can brands be recognised as assets. Might such a development soften the position of the ASB on internally generated brands? Now, the ASB sees no justification for recognising such brands, suggesting that information of this kind should be optional items in the Operating and Financial Review.

However, some companies believe more extensive report-



David Haigh says the best brands may be cherry picked

ing of brand performance would be good for both management and shareholders. On behalf of Marketing Business, the official journal of the Institute of Marketing, Interbrand and Total Research undertook a survey of marketing directors responsible for

brands with annual sales in excess of £30 billion.

Of these, 97 per cent of respondents believe that brands are identifiable and separable assets; 86 per cent believe that acquired brands should be reported in the balance sheet; 75 per cent say

internally generated brands should also be included; more significantly, 82 per cent believe that management accounts should provide more detail on brand values and brand profitability. In effect, marketing directors want to be judged on changes in brand value.

There seems to be a consensus among marketing directors that "accountability" is too narrow and short-term in nature. They believe brand value measures, based on a longer-term perspective, could lead to a broader appreciation of how corporate value is added.

Interbrand has always argued that "economic use" valuation, based on discounted cashflows, is the most appropriate — a view shared by many finance and marketing directors and apparently by the standard setters. However, some valuers maintain that, for example, the "royalty relief" method is equally valid.

This approach depends on comparable benchmark rates, but unfortunately these are often not available or are non-comparable.

Such differences of opinion highlight the urgent need to agree a standard approach to valuation. In the absence of clear guidelines, finance directors and auditors could be in for a roasting themselves.

David Haigh is a director of Interbrand and a chartered accountant.

Present at history in the making

THERE was a remarkable sight last week. It was the senior partner of a Big Six firm and Austin Mitchell, MP, famed critic of the profession, agreeing with each other. This extraordinary event took place at a question-time I was chairing for the Hewison-Walker Business Network, run by the eponymous recruitment consultants. And the subject that the two men agreed about was one which is increasingly uniting accountants everywhere — government accounting.

The senior partner was Colin Sharman of KPMG. He has spent part of his career at the Treasury and knows the full horrors of the cash accounting system under which the Government still operates. He once characterised it as one person sitting in the depths of the Treasury with a sack of coals. He lets a few out, and every so often smuggles some more back in. It does not suggest a sophisticated method of accounting.

The question to the panel was what advice

absolutely," he said. The audience cheered. But by that point the evidence was firmly stacking up in the accountants' corner.

Another panellist was Juen Mulroy, finance director at Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust. While the Sharmans and Mitchells talk about the problems, she is knee deep in them. And she made that plain. In the health service, she said, "I find it very strange to be stuck in the middle of something where I am trying to work with the Treasury who think that balance sheets don't really matter because they are looking at the economic structure and so it doesn't matter if we are struggling, and other people in the system are not."

She also had her own characterisation of the cash accounting system which the health service like so many parts of the Government's finances struggles under. She said: "It is what I call a 'teapot' method of accounting. You start the year with a full teapot on the mantelpiece, you keep dipping into it and you get to the end of the year and find that if you have got more, you fill it around. If you haven't got any more, you go into a period of austerity." It was this lack of a chance of long-term planning which the panel bemoaned. And it is ludicrous when you are dealing with something like the health service. Mulroy said: "I find it quite gruesome to have to imply that if people come along in January, February and March that they can't be treated because the teapot is empty."

Another topic was that of merger of CIMA, the management accounting body, with the English ICA. "What would CIMA members get out of it?" came the question. "Nothing," said Mitchell. "I think they are barmy. They will be eaten alive by the institute. Their personnel will be replaced by institute personnel and they will be associated with all the loving popularity that accountants, the institute and its practices have hung around the neck of the accountability bodies."

He also saw no point in moves to reduce the sheer number of the UK's six accountancy bodies. His solution was for the bodies to remain much as they are, but develop an independent regulator which would be the "over-arching" link between them. It is at times like that when the profession should not revile Mitchell, but thank him for pointing it in the right direction.



ROBERT BRUCE

Quick test to help with disclosure

TODAY sees the publication of the Accounting Standards Board's FR58 on related party disclosures. This provides rules for disclosure where, for example, a director may have a financial interest in a specific contract. Directors always argue that materiality of their own interest against that of the country means that it does not have to be disclosed. Auditors have a rough time. But apparently the senior partner of one

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

firm has devised his own test. If the directors say the item is not material, he says, "then give it back". And they find it is material after all.

What's in a name?

THERE seems to be no end to the confusion surrounding the proposed merger between CIMA, the management accounting body, and the English ICA. They still haven't

come up with a name for the proposed new body. Today, they have placed £495 of members' funds on a quarter-page advertisement in *Accountancy* Age headed "What's in a name?". This allows members to indicate their preference for such catchy possibilities as "The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Business and in Practice". Or they can write in their own suggestions. No prize has been offered.

Benchmark offer

THE English ICA's faculty of finance and management is offering a free benchmarking service to members. This is offered, via the faculty, by The Hackett Group, the US consultancy firm, which has been providing a similar service for members of the US accounting body, the AICPA. Given any member of the English, Scots or Irish ICA can join for

£50 a year and so gain access to the benchmarking offer, the faculty's 4,200 membership should be growing.

Merger gloom

MORE gloom for the English ICA. At an event organised by Arthur Andersen and Michael Page, the recruitment consultants, for recent exam prize-winners, the hot topic was the proposed merger with CIMA. The newly-qualified were, by and large, agin it.

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Michael Hatfield introduces a two-page report on The City and Guilds of London Institute to mark the opening of its head office

The master body takes on the challengers

Less than a decade ago The City and Guilds of London Institute, as an educational institution, was the master of all it purveyed in the industrial and technical sectors: it set educational standards and curricula and made the awards.

Not any more. Since the creation of national vocational qualifications (NVQs) and general national vocational qualifications (GNVQs) eight years ago, C&G has had to exist within a highly competitive marketplace.

No longer responsible for setting standards domestically (its international activities are on a more traditional basis), C&G now competes with 130 other entities drawn from industry and trade organisations as an awarding and assessment body, as well as such traditional institutions as the Royal Society of Arts, the Business and Technology Council (Btec) and the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The question of whether there are too many award bodies is a subject of lively controversy, and one in which C&G is a vociferous participant, but the fact remains that C&G has had to pass through a culture transformation in recent years in order to counter the competition.

Although it is proud of the laurels it has earned in setting educational standards, it has had to develop commercial skills and seek business in the marketplace. Its customers are schools, further education institutions and 10,000 private-sector providers.

In order to meet the competition from other awarding bodies, it has relocated five operational centres in one new head office, opened last week by the Duke of Edinburgh, who is C&G president, recently

ly opened or reorganised its regional offices and repositioned 400 members of staff. Within the last year, 64 per cent of its workforce have changed jobs and gained responsibility.

Housed under one roof, aside from the regional offices, C&G staff now not only assess vocational qualifications and provide back-up customer services, but also run various departments such as Pitman qualifications (C&G bought Pitman's from Longmans), its National Examinations for Supervisors and Management, City & Guilds International and City & Guilds Training and Consultancy.

But why has it spent all this time, energy and money to bring about such a revolution in its traditional practices? Nick Carey, who was appointed C&G director-general two years ago, has a two-fold answer: "In a real sense, City & Guilds' expertise can genuinely reinforce the NVQ programme in a way that smaller



Lorraine Madden talks the Duke of Edinburgh through the changes at City & Guilds' new head office in London

awarding sectors cannot do. They have no background and tradition in assessment, but City & Guilds has to both, for the national good.

"Secondly, if City & Guilds did not embrace the national framework it would cease to exist because NVQs and GNVQs are the future of vocational education.

"We have something to offer in terms of expertise and our innovative history. We also have a good name for rigour and quality, and it is worth

spending money, time and effort to promote the City & Guilds approach. It is for the good of vocational education in this country.

"In the narrower sense, it is worthwhile that people be given a choice. And if we did not do it, other people would."

C&G, once primarily associated with technical/mechanical sector awards, is now a one-stop shop, covering all sectors of the economy: industry, commerce, retailing and social care, the latter a growing area in terms of candidate

applications. C&G is still strong in vehicle and plant maintenance, and it is developing the information technology, commerce and training, and beauty and care sectors.

Broadly speaking, in the domestic market NVQs make up 35 per cent of its business (from 30 per cent last year).

Another 55 per cent is centred on vocational non-NVQs, such as traditional C&G schemes that continue where NVQs as yet do not exist, or with "bespoke" schemes that C&G develops with individual com-

panies, colleges and the Ministry of Defence. Although GNVQs are led by Btec as the principal awarding body, C&G is moving into the area. It represented 3 per cent of its business last year, although it was responsible for 20 per cent of the awards.

In the past year interest has been increasing in such awards from higher education organisations and industry and from candidates applying directly. C&G also has a partnership with the Royal Military College of Science.

Catering to the needs of the customer

Commercial success means staying ahead of the competition

When City & Guilds was looking for a new director-general two years ago it was not a quizzical whim on behalf of its chairman Paul Waite and his board of governors that they broke with tradition and went outside the educational field and into the business world to find a suitable candidate.

It was a recognition that if the institution was going to survive it had to become more commercial. The man they appointed, Nick Carey, had spent a lifetime with ICL. He was managing director of its petrochemical and plastics division.

"The thing that changed for us was that the customer had a choice," says Keith Brooker, director of development and operations. "What we have to ensure is that when they exercise that choice they are buying from City & Guilds."

The size of market, perhaps, is indicated by the fact that C&G receives some 1,500 telephone calls a week from schools, colleges, or individuals. Not all are potential new customers (many are seeking further guidance or information) but the majority are, and are therefore a possible source of revenue.

C&G exists in a commodity market and that is why it has set up its one-stop shop, developed its spread of subjects and offers a range of services, including training and consultancy for schools, further education to help customers to develop their potential, and a business consultancy.

These innovations are designed to meet its competitors, which are seen by Elaine Treasure, director of quality and customer services, as coming from two directions. There are those who offer a range of qualifications, such as the Royal Society of Arts and Btec (although C&G has the widest range), and there are the specialist awarding bodies.

Mrs Treasure says: "Although the latter are very narrow, specialising in one subject, such as engineering or construction, they are able to target very specifically and tailor their services, which makes them strong. What we have to do is to tackle both those kinds of competition by being strong without specialist background knowledge and offering the one-stop shop to our customer."

C&G sees the strength of its one-stop shop approach as preventing the customer having to duplicate its administration and quality assurance procedures by having to deal with a number of award bodies. It is not only developing its tailor-made programmes with individual companies, where it sets the standards in conjunction with the company and carries out the assessments and awards, but is also constantly moving into new areas.

"We have to match the traditional with the new, to provide what the customer needs," Mrs Treasure says. "This means looking at travel, sports and leisure, the growth industries of the economy, which are looking towards qualifications for their workforces."



Keeping up standards: Nick Carey, director of The City and Guilds of London Institute

World, here we come

More than 800,000 people each year sit examinations by the City & Guilds. Each individual, however, takes a number of papers, so that the total number of examination entries is really four million.

The City & Guilds' aim over the next five years, says Nick Carey, director-general, is to consolidate its position as Britain's leading assessment and certification body for vocational education and training, and to expand its operations overseas.

Mr Carey contends that few other organisations have the range and levels of certification offered by C&G. It is involved in the NVQ, GNVQ, GCSE routes, as well as other C&G awards, from basic skills level to degree and post-graduate degree equivalents. Traditionally, C&G may have been associated with the "dirty hands" element of certification, such as engineering and motor vehicles, but that is no longer the case, although those two sectors still figure in the portfolio of awards.

Business and commerce, for example, now make up 16 per cent of its business, and interest in health and social care is growing. About 100,000 candidates, aged 17-60 plus, have registered for NVQs in care, childcare and education and operating department practice.

Because it sees itself as a one-stop shop, C&G covers a vast range in its assessment and awards, from information and technology to saddlery and jewellery. Working with the National Council for Vocational Qualifications and the Schools Curriculum Assessment

C&G plans to further its overseas expansion

Authority, C&G offers GNVQs in several sectors, including business, art and design, manufacturing, leisure and tourism, health and social care, hospitality and catering, and science. Beyond the NVQ framework, C&G provides assessments based on syllabuses developed with advice and support from representatives of industry, education and government agencies. These include qualifications for areas where NVQs have not yet been fully developed for general education (for example, the Technological Baccalaureate and Communications Skills) and for leisure activities such as photography and gardening.

Its Pitman's Examinations Institute has a range of well-established single-subject certificates, from office technology and information processing to accounts.

At a higher level of education its National Examinations for Supervisors and Management, in addition to national and Scottish vocational qualifications at levels 3 to 5, offers introductory certificate and diploma programmes for those aspiring to management positions.

In addition there are Senior Awards. All C&G qualifications are part of a structure of awards allowing the candidate to progress over seven levels. Senior awards, at levels 4-7,

recognise outstanding achievements in industry, commerce and the public services. The purpose is to offer a progressive vocational, rather than academic, route to professional qualifications, and complement the Government's aim of giving vocational qualifications the same status as those that are academically based. Senior awards are Licentiate (equivalent to NVQ level 4), Graduate/Associate (at the level of a first degree or NVQ level 5), Membership (at Master's degree level) and Fellowship, the highest level of professional achievement.

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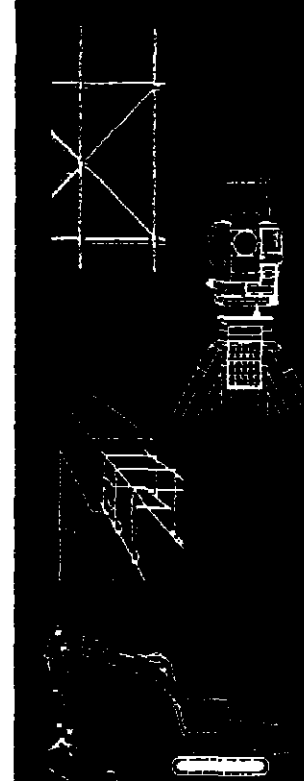
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DAVID - JACKMAN, above, aged 56, makes black magic boxes containing complex circuits and software that enable computers driven by totally different systems to communicate with each other.

Imagine that a computer in Paris wants to "talk" to Air Tahiti on the island of Bora Bora in French Polynesia. Unless the two systems are compatible then communication is a logistical nightmare.

David runs Zircon Communications with his partner Bill Comben near Heathrow. David

left school at 15, joined the Army as a cadet and was assigned to the Royal Signals. Starting with a C&G in basic electronics, he then gained an intermediate certificate and an advanced certificate through day release while he was working for GCHQ as a communications engineer.

Then the microprocessor arrived on the scene in the mid-1970s and revolutionised the world of electronics. David and his partner set up their company in 1981. David mortgaged his house, worked for 14 hours a day and risked everything. It was a bold step, but it has worked.

There are now around 2,000 Zircor boxes in the field handling data from around the world. The company has a turnover of about £350,000 a year. "We have found a niche in the market because we can tackle the smaller jobs that the big companies won't touch," says David.

"The Army taught me to be resourceful and City & Guilds taught me how to combine theory and practice. Few qualifications offer that real hands-on experience or encourage you to live in the real world."



Tina Bonghey, a C&G qualified cookery teacher, gives a catering demonstration at her home

LOTS of people have dreams of running their own catering business. It seems a natural step from being a good cook to becoming a professional caterer, doing wedding dinners, parties or directors' lunches. But few people have hit upon the original idea of running cookery demonstrations and culinary tours abroad.

Tina Boughey, 43, runs Worcestershire Cookery Demonstrations from her home in Kidderminster. As well as taking cookery classes (which include men-only and children's sessions) she invites well-known chefs such as television's Mary Berry to give celebrity demonstrations to groups of gourmets who pay between £19 and £28 per session for the privilege.

The other branch of the business is organising culinary tours to Amalfi and Florence, where a holiday for food enthusiasts and culture-vultures is combined with cookery demonstrations from some of Italy's top chefs.

qualification in Basic Cookery, then progressed to the more advanced Cook's Professional Certificate. But it was while she was in the middle of a C&G teaching-certificate course that the idea of running a cookery school started to germinate.

"I had to organise extra hours of teaching practice to meet the requirements of the course, and the easiest solution was to set up sessions at home with an invited group of students so that I could be assessed," she explains.

The sessions proved so popular that Tina persuaded her husband, a builder, to construct a purpose-built kitchen with two hobs in a central island and space to seat up to 28 people.

Four years later the business is thriving and packing in the punners for cookery demos on "Midsummer Magic" or "Pasta Pronto". She also has an agent in America, her former partner Jenny Aston, who markets the culinary tours business to Americans who fly over for a taste of middle England (taking in Blenheim and Stratford as well as cookery demos) or the Italian tours.

FIVE years ago Anne Jennings left behind a secure job and a promising career in banking and decided to retrain as a landscape gardener.

The idea came to her when she visited Capel Manor Horticulture and Environment Centre in Enfield, north London, on one of their open days. "I had always enjoyed gardening. After 15 years working in banks all I was really doing was pushing paper around," she says.

So she left the security of banking and took a full-time City & Guilds course in Horticulture and Countryside Conservation at Capel Manor, with the help of a mature student's grant. "It was a very practical course. We were sent outside digging and had to learn about the different needs of plants — the kind of soil and conditions they thrive on and the nutrients they need."

A year later, having started to take on some private gardening

work, she took a day release City & Guilds course in Soft Landscape and Design which added to her skills.

Anne was now ready to set up as a professionally qualified landscape gardener, work which she now combines with a part-time job at the Museum of Garden History in Lambeth.

She has already started propagating her own plants and eventually plans to move away from north London, with her partner and three-year-old daughter, and open her own

Landscape and garden design is becoming a very popular second career for many people, but Anne has very definite ideas on how people should prepare themselves for that kind of work.

"It is important to start at the bottom and get your hands dirty. City & Guilds is one of the few qualifications that are really practical," she says.

C&G courses
have been
translated into
Mandarin

Earlier this month a landmark award ceremony took place in Shanghai, *Michael Hatfield* writes. Nick Carey, the director-general of City & Guilds, and Paul Waite, his chairman, were handing out the first certificates to 350 Chinese students who had participated in C&G certification courses.

The Chinese connection began four years ago, when the C&G had its main office in Portland Place in the heart of London, not far from the Chinese Embassy, although the institution has been long established in Hong Kong.

The Chinese candidates sat examinations, specially translated into Mandarin, covering subjects as diverse as electronics, hairdressing, sewing, computer programming and vehicle mechanics.

China is a country that has tremendous growth potential for providers of education, as is South Africa, where, only in the past year,

in western Europe and the newly emerging countries in the former Eastern bloc.

The main thrust of C&G is through PEI, where, in particular, its English for Speakers of Another Language (ESOL) is evidently a big attraction for candidates.

Not only is the course popular in areas already mentioned, but in the Caribbean and South America, where there has been significant growth in entries for ESOL, it has attracted great interest.

In North America C&G has seen a consolidation and expansion, and important contracts have been signed with industrial, commercial and educational organisations to assess or

As an indication of C&G reputation worldwide, the American Society of Certified Technicians recognises the institute's certificates in the engineering field.

THE COLLAPSE of the mining industry has left a trail of devastation as communities have had to cope with massive change. Many miners found themselves having to retrain and learn new skills.

Paul Guy, 39, saw the light back in the mid 1980s and decided to leave the mining industry before he was made redundant. He had spent nearly 20 years as a colliery mechanic with British Coal in Derbyshire, a job that involved maintaining, installing and repairing mining equipment and supervising the training of mechanics.

Paul had a general education in Maths, English and Science and a City & Guilds qualification in mining engineering, but he needed more qualifications, so, in 1985, he went back to college to take O levels and then started applying for jobs.

He realised that his experience supervising training could be used as a lever into a new career. Paul found a job working for the National Association for the

Care and Resettlement of Offenders (Nacro) as an adult literacy and numeracy tutor and welfare adviser, but he was made redundant in 1991.

The experience, however, landed him a job as an adult training organiser for the North Derbyshire Chamber of Commerce. Four years later Paul now helps other people to find their feet after redundancy and unemployment, helping them to change careers, conduct a job search, perform better at interviews and write CVs. In addition, he has picked up an impressive portfolio of qualifications including City & Guilds LicentiateShip. He is also working towards an Open University degree in Social Sciences.

"Gaining these qualifications taught me how to communicate and present information. The discipline of having to think out your aims and objectives and prepare learning programmes has been invaluable. It beats crawling around underground," he says.

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Shares edge up in narrow trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	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FINANCIAL SERVICES

AMERICAN MUTUAL FUNDS									
Fund Name	Assets	YTD %	12-M %	3-M %	6-M %	1-YR %	2-YR %	3-YR %	4-YR %
American Bond Fund	\$1.2B	+0.2	+1.2	+0.1	+0.3	+0.5	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4
American Equity Fund	\$1.5B	+0.1	+1.5	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5
American Growth Fund	\$1.8B	+0.3	+1.8	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+1.0	+1.3	+1.6
American Income Fund	\$1.1B	+0.1	+1.1	+0.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2
American International Fund	\$1.3B	+0.2	+1.3	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5
American Life Fund	\$1.4B	+0.1	+1.4	+0.1	+0.3	+0.5	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4
American Money Fund	\$1.6B	+0.1	+1.6	+0.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2
American Real Estate Fund	\$1.7B	+0.2	+1.7	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5
American Science & Tech. Fund	\$1.9B	+0.3	+1.9	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+1.0	+1.3	+1.6
American Small Cap. Fund	\$2.0B	+0.4	+2.0	+0.4	+0.6	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4	+1.7
American Stock Fund	\$2.1B	+0.5	+2.1	+0.5	+0.7	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5	+1.8
American Tax-Bond Fund	\$2.2B	+0.2	+2.2	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5
American Ultra-Conservative Fund	\$2.3B	+0.1	+2.3	+0.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2
American Ultra-Growth Fund	\$2.4B	+0.4	+2.4	+0.4	+0.6	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4	+1.7
American Ultra-Income Fund	\$2.5B	+0.2	+2.5	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5
American Ultra-Short-Term Fund	\$2.6B	+0.1	+2.6	+0.1	+0.2	+0.4	+0.6	+0.9	+1.2
American Ultra-Tech. Fund	\$2.7B	+0.3	+2.7	+0.3	+0.5	+0.7	+1.0	+1.3	+1.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$2.8B	+0.4	+2.8	+0.4	+0.6	+0.8	+1.1	+1.4	+1.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$2.9B	+0.5	+2.9	+0.5	+0.7	+0.9	+1.2	+1.5	+1.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.0B	+0.6	+3.0	+0.6	+0.8	+1.0	+1.3	+1.6	+1.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.1B	+0.7	+3.1	+0.7	+0.9	+1.1	+1.4	+1.7	+2.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.2B	+0.8	+3.2	+0.8	+1.0	+1.2	+1.5	+1.8	+2.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.3B	+0.9	+3.3	+0.9	+1.1	+1.3	+1.6	+1.9	+2.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.4B	+1.0	+3.4	+1.0	+1.2	+1.4	+1.7	+2.0	+2.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.5B	+1.1	+3.5	+1.1	+1.3	+1.5	+1.8	+2.1	+2.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.6B	+1.2	+3.6	+1.2	+1.4	+1.6	+1.9	+2.2	+2.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.7B	+1.3	+3.7	+1.3	+1.5	+1.7	+2.0	+2.3	+2.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.8B	+1.4	+3.8	+1.4	+1.6	+1.8	+2.1	+2.4	+2.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$3.9B	+1.5	+3.9	+1.5	+1.7	+1.9	+2.2	+2.5	+2.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.0B	+1.6	+4.0	+1.6	+1.8	+2.0	+2.3	+2.6	+2.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.1B	+1.7	+4.1	+1.7	+1.9	+2.1	+2.4	+2.7	+3.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.2B	+1.8	+4.2	+1.8	+2.0	+2.2	+2.5	+2.8	+3.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.3B	+1.9	+4.3	+1.9	+2.1	+2.3	+2.6	+2.9	+3.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.4B	+2.0	+4.4	+2.0	+2.2	+2.4	+2.7	+3.0	+3.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.5B	+2.1	+4.5	+2.1	+2.3	+2.5	+2.8	+3.1	+3.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.6B	+2.2	+4.6	+2.2	+2.4	+2.6	+2.9	+3.2	+3.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.7B	+2.3	+4.7	+2.3	+2.5	+2.7	+3.0	+3.3	+3.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.8B	+2.4	+4.8	+2.4	+2.6	+2.8	+3.1	+3.4	+3.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$4.9B	+2.5	+4.9	+2.5	+2.7	+2.9	+3.2	+3.5	+3.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.0B	+2.6	+5.0	+2.6	+2.8	+3.0	+3.3	+3.6	+3.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.1B	+2.7	+5.1	+2.7	+2.9	+3.1	+3.4	+3.7	+4.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.2B	+2.8	+5.2	+2.8	+3.0	+3.2	+3.5	+3.8	+4.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.3B	+2.9	+5.3	+2.9	+3.1	+3.3	+3.6	+3.9	+4.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.4B	+3.0	+5.4	+3.0	+3.2	+3.4	+3.7	+4.0	+4.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.5B	+3.1	+5.5	+3.1	+3.3	+3.5	+3.8	+4.1	+4.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.6B	+3.2	+5.6	+3.2	+3.4	+3.6	+3.9	+4.2	+4.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.7B	+3.3	+5.7	+3.3	+3.5	+3.7	+4.0	+4.3	+4.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.8B	+3.4	+5.8	+3.4	+3.6	+3.8	+4.1	+4.4	+4.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$5.9B	+3.5	+5.9	+3.5	+3.7	+3.9	+4.2	+4.5	+4.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.0B	+3.6	+6.0	+3.6	+3.8	+4.0	+4.3	+4.6	+4.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.1B	+3.7	+6.1	+3.7	+3.9	+4.1	+4.4	+4.7	+5.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.2B	+3.8	+6.2	+3.8	+4.0	+4.2	+4.5	+4.8	+5.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.3B	+3.9	+6.3	+3.9	+4.1	+4.3	+4.6	+4.9	+5.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.4B	+4.0	+6.4	+4.0	+4.2	+4.4	+4.7	+5.0	+5.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.5B	+4.1	+6.5	+4.1	+4.3	+4.5	+4.8	+5.1	+5.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.6B	+4.2	+6.6	+4.2	+4.4	+4.6	+4.9	+5.2	+5.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.7B	+4.3	+6.7	+4.3	+4.5	+4.7	+5.0	+5.3	+5.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.8B	+4.4	+6.8	+4.4	+4.6	+4.8	+5.1	+5.4	+5.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$6.9B	+4.5	+6.9	+4.5	+4.7	+4.9	+5.2	+5.5	+5.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.0B	+4.6	+7.0	+4.6	+4.8	+5.0	+5.3	+5.6	+5.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.1B	+4.7	+7.1	+4.7	+4.9	+5.1	+5.4	+5.7	+6.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.2B	+4.8	+7.2	+4.8	+5.0	+5.2	+5.5	+5.8	+6.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.3B	+4.9	+7.3	+4.9	+5.1	+5.3	+5.6	+5.9	+6.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.4B	+5.0	+7.4	+5.0	+5.2	+5.4	+5.7	+6.0	+6.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.5B	+5.1	+7.5	+5.1	+5.3	+5.5	+5.8	+6.1	+6.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.6B	+5.2	+7.6	+5.2	+5.4	+5.6	+5.9	+6.2	+6.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.7B	+5.3	+7.7	+5.3	+5.5	+5.7	+6.0	+6.3	+6.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.8B	+5.4	+7.8	+5.4	+5.6	+5.8	+6.1	+6.4	+6.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$7.9B	+5.5	+7.9	+5.5	+5.7	+5.9	+6.2	+6.5	+6.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.0B	+5.6	+8.0	+5.6	+5.8	+6.0	+6.3	+6.6	+6.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.1B	+5.7	+8.1	+5.7	+5.9	+6.1	+6.4	+6.7	+7.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.2B	+5.8	+8.2	+5.8	+6.0	+6.2	+6.5	+6.8	+7.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.3B	+5.9	+8.3	+5.9	+6.1	+6.3	+6.6	+6.9	+7.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.4B	+6.0	+8.4	+6.0	+6.2	+6.4	+6.7	+7.0	+7.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.5B	+6.1	+8.5	+6.1	+6.3	+6.5	+6.8	+7.1	+7.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.6B	+6.2	+8.6	+6.2	+6.4	+6.6	+6.9	+7.2	+7.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.7B	+6.3	+8.7	+6.3	+6.5	+6.7	+7.0	+7.3	+7.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.8B	+6.4	+8.8	+6.4	+6.6	+6.8	+7.1	+7.4	+7.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$8.9B	+6.5	+8.9	+6.5	+6.7	+6.9	+7.2	+7.5	+7.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.0B	+6.6	+9.0	+6.6	+6.8	+7.0	+7.3	+7.6	+7.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.1B	+6.7	+9.1	+6.7	+6.9	+7.1	+7.4	+7.7	+8.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.2B	+6.8	+9.2	+6.8	+7.0	+7.2	+7.5	+7.8	+8.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.3B	+6.9	+9.3	+6.9	+7.1	+7.3	+7.6	+7.9	+8.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.4B	+7.0	+9.4	+7.0	+7.2	+7.4	+7.7	+8.0	+8.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.5B	+7.1	+9.5	+7.1	+7.3	+7.5	+7.8	+8.1	+8.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.6B	+7.2	+9.6	+7.2	+7.4	+7.6	+7.9	+8.2	+8.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.7B	+7.3	+9.7	+7.3	+7.5	+7.7	+8.0	+8.3	+8.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.8B	+7.4	+9.8	+7.4	+7.6	+7.8	+8.1	+8.4	+8.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$9.9B	+7.5	+9.9	+7.5	+7.7	+7.9	+8.2	+8.5	+8.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.0B	+7.6	+10.0	+7.6	+7.8	+8.0	+8.3	+8.6	+8.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.1B	+7.7	+10.1	+7.7	+7.9	+8.1	+8.4	+8.7	+9.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.2B	+7.8	+10.2	+7.8	+8.0	+8.2	+8.5	+8.8	+9.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.3B	+7.9	+10.3	+7.9	+8.1	+8.3	+8.6	+8.9	+9.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.4B	+8.0	+10.4	+8.0	+8.2	+8.4	+8.7	+9.0	+9.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.5B	+8.1	+10.5	+8.1	+8.3	+8.5	+8.8	+9.1	+9.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.6B	+8.2	+10.6	+8.2	+8.4	+8.6	+8.9	+9.2	+9.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.7B	+8.3	+10.7	+8.3	+8.5	+8.7	+9.0	+9.3	+9.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.8B	+8.4	+10.8	+8.4	+8.6	+8.8	+9.1	+9.4	+9.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$10.9B	+8.5	+10.9	+8.5	+8.7	+8.9	+9.2	+9.5	+9.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.0B	+8.6	+11.0	+8.6	+8.8	+9.0	+9.3	+9.6	+9.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.1B	+8.7	+11.1	+8.7	+8.9	+9.1	+9.4	+9.7	+10.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.2B	+8.8	+11.2	+8.8	+9.0	+9.2	+9.5	+9.8	+10.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.3B	+8.9	+11.3	+8.9	+9.1	+9.3	+9.6	+9.9	+10.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.4B	+9.0	+11.4	+9.0	+9.2	+9.4	+9.7	+10.0	+10.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.5B	+9.1	+11.5	+9.1	+9.3	+9.5	+9.8	+10.1	+10.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.6B	+9.2	+11.6	+9.2	+9.4	+9.6	+9.9	+10.2	+10.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.7B	+9.3	+11.7	+9.3	+9.5	+9.7	+10.0	+10.3	+10.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.8B	+9.4	+11.8	+9.4	+9.6	+9.8	+10.1	+10.4	+10.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$11.9B	+9.5	+11.9	+9.5	+9.7	+9.9	+10.2	+10.5	+10.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.0B	+9.6	+12.0	+9.6	+9.8	+10.0	+10.3	+10.6	+10.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.1B	+9.7	+12.1	+9.7	+9.9	+10.1	+10.4	+10.7	+11.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.2B	+9.8	+12.2	+9.8	+10.0	+10.2	+10.5	+10.8	+11.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.3B	+9.9	+12.3	+9.9	+10.1	+10.3	+10.6	+10.9	+11.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.4B	+10.0	+12.4	+10.0	+10.2	+10.4	+10.7	+11.0	+11.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.5B	+10.1	+12.5	+10.1	+10.3	+10.5	+10.8	+11.1	+11.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.6B	+10.2	+12.6	+10.2	+10.4	+10.6	+10.9	+11.2	+11.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.7B	+10.3	+12.7	+10.3	+10.5	+10.7	+11.0	+11.3	+11.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.8B	+10.4	+12.8	+10.4	+10.6	+10.8	+11.1	+11.4	+11.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$12.9B	+10.5	+12.9	+10.5	+10.7	+10.9	+11.2	+11.5	+11.8
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.0B	+10.6	+13.0	+10.6	+10.8	+11.0	+11.3	+11.6	+11.9
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.1B	+10.7	+13.1	+10.7	+10.9	+11.1	+11.4	+11.7	+12.0
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.2B	+10.8	+13.2	+10.8	+11.0	+11.2	+11.5	+11.8	+12.1
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.3B	+10.9	+13.3	+10.9	+11.1	+11.3	+11.6	+11.9	+12.2
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.4B	+11.0	+13.4	+11.0	+11.2	+11.4	+11.7	+12.0	+12.3
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.5B	+11.1	+13.5	+11.1	+11.3	+11.5	+11.8	+12.1	+12.4
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.6B	+11.2	+13.6	+11.2	+11.4	+11.6	+11.9	+12.2	+12.5
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.7B	+11.3	+13.7	+11.3	+11.5	+11.7	+12.0	+12.3	+12.6
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.8B	+11.4	+13.8	+11.4	+11.6	+11.8	+12.1	+12.4	+12.7
American Ultra-Tech. & Int'l. Fund	\$13.9B	+11.5	+13.9	+11.5	+11.7	+11.9	+12.2	+12.5	+1

Power of court on appeal

West of England Ship Owners Mutual Insurance Association (Luxembourg) v Cristal Ltd

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Pill (Judgment October 19)

A clause in an international agreement known as the "Cristal Contract", an acronym for the Contract Regarding a Supplement to Tanker Liability for Oil Pollution, which stipulated that Cristal Ltd, the administrator of the contract and the fund from which compensation was paid, was to be the "sole judge" in accordance with the terms of the contract of the validity of any claims made thereunder, meant that the decision by Cristal on matters of fact was to be final and binding for all purposes and was not reviewable by the court, subject to any question of unfairness, bad faith or perversity.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by the defendant, Cristal Ltd, from the decision of Mr Justice Waller dated February 1, 1995 whereby he held on the trial of certain preliminary issues in an action brought by the plaintiffs, the West of England Ship Owners Mutual Insurance Association (Luxembourg), that any determination by Cristal as to whether or not a claim had been made in time could be reviewed by an English court: that the court's power of review was unrestricted, and that findings of fact as well as conclusions of law could be challenged: see [1995] 1 Lloyd's LR 500.

The Cristal Contract was a contract between Cristal Ltd and a large number of companies throughout the world which were engaged in the oil industry. It was an international agreement which entitled specified claimants to recover compensation in respect of damage from oil pollution sustained either by the claimant or by

a third party to whom the claimant had paid compensation. The compensation was paid out of the Cristal Fund and Cristal Ltd which was a Luxembourg company administered the contract and the fund.

The contract stipulated that claims were to be brought within a specified time limit. In the present proceedings Cristal asserted, inter alia, that the relevant claims had not been brought by the plaintiffs within the time limit and that it had exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether or not a time limit had expired.

Clause IX of the contract stated: "In fulfilling its obligations, in accordance with the terms of this contract, Cristal Ltd shall be the sole judge in accordance with these terms of the validity of any claim made hereunder."

Mr Peter Gross, QC and Mr Christopher Hancock for the defendant, Mr Adrian Hamilton, QC, Mr Jonathan Gilman, QC and Mr Vernon Flynn for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that there were many circumstances in which the powers of the High Court to review decisions made by persons or bodies outside the court system might be restricted. Leaving aside decisions such as those of the Cabinet, which could not appear to be justiciable at all, those restrictions fell into a number of categories which included the following:

(a) Parties to a contract might incorporate a term which purported to exclude or limit any right to challenge by court proceedings any decision made under the contract.

(b) The decision might be one which could only be challenged by judicial review. Here the courts themselves had established the limits on their right to review the decision.

(c) The power of the court might be restricted by statute.

The court was concerned with a case in the first category but it was clear that cases in other categories might raise similar problems as to the precise role of the court where there was a restriction on its powers of review.

It remained the general rule of common law that an agreement wholly to oust the jurisdiction of the courts was against public policy and void. An inroad into the rule had been made by section 3 of the Arbitration Act 1979 which made provision for agreements whereby the statutory jurisdiction of the High Court to supervise the way in which arbitrators applied the law in reaching their decisions in individual cases could be excluded, but in the absence of some statutory provision the rule remained in force.

It was clear, however, that in applying the rules of fact were treated differently from questions of law. There was no objection in principle to the parties to a contract stipulating that a chosen tribunal should be the final arbiter on questions of fact.

But even on questions of fact the court might have a residual part to play if the decision on fact was open to challenge on the ground of fraud or on the ground that there had been an abuse of power by the tribunal.

On questions of law, however, the court would in general retain control and would decline to allow the extra-curial tribunal to be the final arbiter on such questions. But there were general exceptions to that general approach.

Counsel for Cristal accepted that decisions on questions of law could be reviewed by the court. That was made clear by the fact that the words "sole judge" were followed by the words "in accordance with these terms".

He also accepted that there was a duty on Cristal to act fairly in making any determination and that the court could intervene if there had been a failure to do so or if the determination could be shown to be perverse.

In his Lordship's view, it was important to emphasise that the contract was an international agreement to which all companies throughout the world were parties. At the same time it was necessary to note that by clause XI the contract was to be construed and was to take effect in accordance with the laws of England and the English courts were given exclusive jurisdiction "over any matter arising out of the contract".

In the light of clause XI and of the concessions made by Cristal it did not seem to his Lordship that any question arose as to the ouster of the jurisdiction of the court. The court clearly had a role to play. The court was to define the extent of that role.

His Lordship could see the force of the submission that it was unusual for one party to a contract to be constituted the sole arbiter of the validity of any claim made against the other.

There was therefore attraction in the argument that the determination under clause IX was merely, as counsel for the plaintiffs put it, a first stage determination, and that the words "sole judge" were inserted to make it clear that Cristal rather than the members of the company or some other person should make the first stage determination.

His Lordship had come to the conclusion, however, that that argument had to be rejected. The contract was an unusual agreement.

One of the functions of Cristal was to administer the fund. In most cases the claimant would be a member of Cristal. Cristal and the board of directors were there to hold a balance between members.

In the context of the agreement it seemed to his Lordship to be clear that the words "sole judge" in clause IX were sufficient to show that the determination by Cristal was to be final and binding for all purposes on matters of fact, subject of course to any question of unfairness, bad faith or perversity.

That conclusion accorded with the nature of the scheme and took account of the importance of having a final and binding decision on matters of fact. The exclusion of disputes about compensation from arbitration provisions in the rules did not mean that such disputes were to go to the court but rather that the question of compensation was to be decided by Cristal as "sole judge".

Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Pill agreed.

Solicitors: Ince & Co; Holman Fenwick & Willan.

Regina v Secretary of State for the Home Department and Others, Ex parte O'Dhuibhir

Regina v Same, Ex parte O'Brien

Before Lord Justice Rose and Mr Justice Wright (Judgment October 11)

The Home Secretary could lawfully impose a closed condition regime for visitors of exceptional physical contact between prisoners and visitors was prevented by an imposed physical barrier.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in a reserved judgment refusing judicial review of an instruction by the Home Secretary on June 20, 1995 to impose a closed condition regime for visitors of exceptional physical contact between prisoners and visitors was prevented by an imposed physical barrier.

The applicants, Liam O'Dhuibhir and Michael O'Brien, were both serving long terms of imprisonment and were each one of a tiny number of British prisoners in category A, exceptional escape risk.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald, QC and Mr Tim Owen for the applicants, Mr Kenneth Parker, QC and Mr Pushpinder Saini for the Home Secretary.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE said that the test to be applied of a "self-evident and pressing need" for closed visits came from Lord Justice Slynn in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department*.

Ex parte Leach [1994] QB 98, 212. In his Lordship's judgment, the Home Secretary's rule-making power under section 47(1) of the Prison Act 1952 to regulate and manage prisons and control persons detained therein self-evidently and necessarily conferred the power to regulate the circumstances of visits to prisoners so as to minimise and, if possible, prevent the introduction of contraband.

His Lordship would give the same answer were it necessary to pose the self-evident and pressing need test in the Prison Rules (SI 1964 No 388) which were enacted under section 47(1).

Rule 33(1) conferred a power to impose general restrictions on the communications between a prisoner and other persons and the specific limitations on visits as to sight and hearing imposed by rule 33(4) and (5) did not derogate from that general power.

Similarly, rule 37's provision in relation to legal visits required reasonable facilities, which were to be out of hearing but in sight of an officer, but were not further identified.

What facilities were reasonable depended on all the circumstances including, on the one hand, the category and escape risk of the prisoner, the existence, operability and effectiveness of security procedures, the type of contraband and the extent to which it was entering prisons, and on the other hand, the prisoner's unassailable right to communicate, confidentially, with his legal advisers to the extent necessary adequately to prepare and present his case, in civil or criminal litigation.

No different conclusion was possible in relation to closed family visits.

Provided that the restrictions on legal visits were necessary in the interests of security, as in his Lordship's judgment, in the light of evidence by the Director General of Prisons, they were, and provided the unassailable right of the prisoner was preserved, as in his Lordship's judgment, on the evidence as to present facilities, it was, it could not be said that the facilities now provided for closed legal visits were other than reasonable within rule 37(1). That conclusion was the same whether the matter was approached as one of power or rationality.

His Lordship did not accept that in *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Ex parte Anderson* [1994] QB 778, 793E Lord Justice Goff in referring to "unimpeded access to a solicitor" had in mind, having regard to the circumstances of that case, the sort of security related physical impediment with which the present case was concerned. Indeed, he expressly contemplated regulation of the circumstances of solicitors' access to inmates.

Nor did his Lordship accept Mr Fitzgerald's submission that a minimum interference test was necessary to justify closed visits: the correct test was what was reasonable balancing all relevant factors.

In the language of Lord Justice Slynn in *Ex parte Leach* (at p212E), the evidence in the present case established "an objective need... in the interests of the regulation of prisons" for a closed visit regime.

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His Lordship stressed that the conclusion that the imposition of a closed visit regime was within the secretary of state's powers and that reasonable facilities were now accorded for those closed visits had been determined by the particular circumstances of the case: that is, in relation to category A exceptional escape risk prisoners, following the Whitmore escape in September 1994, in which O'Dhuibhir was allegedly involved, and the Woodcock report, in December 1994, of the inquiry into the escape from Whitmore (Cantid 2741) prior to publication of a report on prison security commissioned from General Sir John Latham which was to deal with the issue of closed visits, but which had not been completed by March 1995, necessitating a decision on that issue in advance of the report, and in the light of the evidence as to the quantity and seriousness of contraband entering prisons in the 18 months prior to August 1995.

The judgment was not to be understood as recognising a power in the Home Secretary to impose a general closed visits regime on other categories of prisoners or other persons or in other circumstances.

Nor did his Lordship mean that closed visits could necessarily lawfully continue indefinitely in relation to the applicants. The case related to the order made in the circumstances prevailing in June 1995. Changed circumstances might require a changed regime.

Mr Justice Wright agreed.

Solicitors: B. M. Birnberg & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Sex claim valid despite illegal contract

Leighton v Michael and Another

Before Mr Justice Mummery, Miss J. W. Colleson and Mrs P. Turner (Judgment October 19)

A claimant was not precluded from pursuing a claim of sex discrimination against an employer under a contract of service... or a contract personally to execute any work or labour, and related expressions shall be construed accordingly.

Mr Mark Sutton for the applicant, Mr Anthony J. Weston, solicitor, for the employers.

MR JUSTICE MUMMERY said that from the October 1991 until early April 1993 the applicant was in full-time employment with a Mr and Mrs Newey at their fish and chip shop in Ross-on-Wye. Income tax and national insurance were deducted from his wages.

The fish and chip shop was then sold to Mr Michael, the second respondent being his partner in the business. Tax and national insurance were no longer deducted. The applicant complained that Mr Michael refused to deduct the money. In June 1993 she accepted additional work peeling potatoes knowing that tax would not be deducted.

In October 1993 she consulted the Citizens Advice Bureau, and in January 1994 she consulted a solicitor about sexual harassment and about tax and national insurance.

On that evidence, the industrial tribunal held that the carrying out of the contract of employment involved a fraud on the revenue and could not be relied on by the applicant in asserting her legal rights; and that she was dismissed from pursuing a claim for a statutory right such as that created by the 1975 Act.

The tribunal had held that where an employee's claim, whether common law or statutory, were directly founded on a contract knowingly tainted with illegality, they were to be treated as unenforceable on the ground of public policy.

In the view of the majority of the appeal tribunal, protection under Part II of the 1975 Act involved a reference to the contract of employment to determine whether the person was "employed" within the meaning of

the statute, but the claim of sex discrimination did not involve enforcing, relying on or founding a claim on the contract of employment.

In brief, the right not to be discriminated against on the ground of sex was conferred by statute on persons who were employed. There was nothing in the statute, or public policy, to disqualify a person who was in fact employed from protection, by reason of illegality in the fact of, or in the performance of the contract of employment.

The majority member of the appeal tribunal also agreed that the appeal should be allowed, but for the reason that the applicant should not, for the purposes of the doctrine of illegal contracts, be regarded as knowingly a party to a fraud on the revenue on the basis of the facts found.

The case would be remitted for a hearing on the merits of the applicant's claim.

Solicitors: Shawcross & Co; Ross-on-Wye: Anthony J. Weston, Hereford.

Maastricht Treaty term imposes no obligation

Regina v Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Ex parte Duddridge and Others

Article 130r of the EC Treaty, as inserted by the Maastricht Treaty on European Union, paragraph 2 of which provided that "Community policy on the environment... shall be based on the precautionary principle..." did not of itself impose obligations on any organ of a member state.

The secretary of state was, therefore, not in breach of Community law by failing to adopt the precautionary principle when discharging his duties under the Electricity Act 1989.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice

Peter Gibson and Sir Iain Glidewell) so held on October 6 when giving reasons for their refusal on October 3 to grant the applicants, Lloyd Duddridge, Danielle Bye and Naomi Holliday, leave to appeal from the refusal on October 3, 1994 of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Fargherson and Mrs Justice Smith) to grant judicial review of the secretary of state's decision not to issue regulations under the 1989 Act restricting the electromagnetic fields from electric cables being laid or to be laid as part of the national grid.

SIR IAIN GLIDEWELL said that article 130r set out the aims which Community policy on the

environment should be designed to achieve, and the principles to which such a policy should adhere. The article did not of itself place any obligation on any organ of a national government.

The repeated use of the future tense made it clear that the article itself did not contain or create such a policy. The procedures which were to be followed to bring Community policy on the environment into being were set out in article 130s.

The creation of a policy on the environment required a decision by, and action, such as the promulgation of a Directive, by the organs of the Community: the Commission, the Council and the European Parliament.

Armbrecht, a hotelier, opted for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EEC Treaty by the Bundesfinanzhof, Germany.

Under the German Law on Turnover Tax 1980, transactions governed by the Law on Land Transfer Tax were exempted from turnover tax, but paragraph 9 of the Law on Turnover Tax allowed taxable persons to treat such transfers as taxable when they were made "to another trader for the purposes of his business".

On the sale in 1981 of his building comprising a guesthouse, a restaurant and premises used as a private dwelling, Dieter

Member states may allow taxpayers a right of option for taxation in cases of... (b) the transactions covered in (B)... (g) above. Member states may restrict the scope of this right of option and shall fix the details of its use.

Article 17 provides: "(2) In so far as the goods and services are used for the purposes of his taxable transactions, the taxable person shall be entitled to deduct from the tax which he is liable to pay: (a) value added tax due or paid in respect of goods or services supplied or to be supplied to him by another taxable person..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The German Government stressed that since Mr Armbrecht's property formed a single unit in German civil law and was entered as such in the land register, it should be treated as a single item for the application of Directive 77/388.

Although article 5(1) of the directive did not define the extent of the property rights transferred, which had to be determined in accordance with the applicable national law, the court had held that the objective of the directive, to base the common system of VAT on a uniform definition of taxable transactions, would be jeopardised if the preconditions for a supply of

goods varied from one member state to another.

Consequently, the national law applicable in the case could not provide the answer to the first question raised, which concerned not the tax but the right to supply but whether the transaction was subject to the tax. It was clear from article 2(1) that a taxable person had to act "as such" for a transaction to be subject to VAT.

A taxable person performing a transaction in a private capacity did not act as a taxable person, and such a transaction was therefore not subject to VAT. Nor was there any provision in the directive which precluded a taxable person who wished to retain part of an item of property among his private assets from excluding it from the VAT system.

That interpretation made it possible for a taxable person to choose whether or not to integrate into his business, for the purposes of applying the directive, part of an asset which was given over to his private use.

Apportionment between the part allocated to business activities and the part retained for private use had to be based on the proportions of private and business use at the year of acquisition and not on a geographical division.

The taxable person must, moreover, throughout his period of ownership of the property, demonstrate an intention to retain part of it among his private assets.

The German government could not object to the foregoing on the ground of the argument that, by reference to the last sentence of article 13(C), the German legislature was empowered to impose on a taxable person taxation of the property in its entirety in a case such as the present. Such an approach was incompatible with the directive.

The right of option provided for in article 13(C), while making it possible to transform an exempted transaction into a taxable one and entitling the taxpayer to deduct input tax, did not enable a supply which did not fall within the scope of the tax as defined in the directive to be transformed into a taxable supply.

In relation to the second question, concerning the right to deduction under article 17(2a) of the directive, it was only to the extent that an item was used for the purposes of his taxable transactions that a taxable person could deduct from the tax which he was liable to pay the VAT due or to be paid in respect of that item.

It was established that if the taxable person chose to exclude part of an item of property from his business assets, that part never formed part of those assets. Consequently, that part which was not used for providing taxable business services or deliveries, did not fall within the scope of the VAT system and was not taken into account for the application of article 17(2a).

The third question related to the adjustment of input tax deduction under article 20(2).

Since, as was clear from the answer to the second question, the right to deduct input tax under article 17(2) applied only to the part of the relevant asset assigned to the business, the adjustment of that deduction must also be limited to that part of the asset.

On those grounds the European Court ruled:

1 Where a taxable person sold property part of which he had chosen to reserve for his private use, he did not act with respect to the sale of that part as a taxable person within the meaning of article 2(1) of Directive 77/388.

2 Where a taxable person sold property part of which he had chosen at the time of acquisition not to assign to his business, only the part of the property assigned to his business was to be taken into account for the application of article 17(2).

3 The adjustment of the input tax deduction under article 20(2) must be limited to the part of the property assigned to the business.

Luxembourg

European Law Report

Separating private house from business premises for VAT purposes

Finanzamt Uelzen v Armbrecht

Case C-291/92

Before: G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges: F. A. Schockweiler, P. J. G. Kapteyn, C. G. Mulder, J. C. F. Mancini, J. C. Molitoro de Almeida, J. L. Murray, D. A. O. Edward, G. Hirsch and H. Ragnemalm

Advocates General: V. Van Gerven and F. G. Jacobs (Opinions September 15, 1993 and April 6, 1995) (Judgment October 4)

Where a taxable person sold property part of which he had

chosen to reserve for his private use, he did not act, with respect to the sale of that part, as a "taxable person" within the meaning of the charging provision in a Community directive relating to value-added tax.

Where a taxable person sold property part of which he had chosen at the time of acquisition not to assign to his business, only the part assigned to the business was to be taken into account for the purposes of the provisions in the directive relating to the deduction of input tax.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on

a reference for a preliminary ruling under article 177 of the EEC Treaty by the Bundesfinanzhof, Germany.

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Apportionment between the part allocated to business activities and the part retained for private use had to be based on the proportions of private and business use at the year of acquisition and not on a geographical division.

The taxable person must, moreover, throughout his period of ownership of the property, demonstrate an intention to retain part of it among his private assets.

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FILM 1

Nicole Kidman stars as the TV weather girl with pretensions in the vibrant comedy, *To Die For*

FILM 2

Steven Seagal saves the world yet again in the limp and brainless Hollywood sequel, *Under Siege 2*

THE FILMS ARTS

FILM 3

Despite everyone's best efforts, there is not much to recommend in the British ghost story, *Haunted*

FILM 4

The actor Anthony Andrews is back in the cinematic spotlight, but this time he's playing producer

The actor Anthony Andrews talks about life as a producer; plus the week's new releases, starring Nicole Kidman and Steven Seagal

Happy in his old haunts

Back in the early 1980s, two up-and-coming young actors starred in the television adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. It launched Jeremy Irons on a film career which has embraced an Oscar (for *Reversal of Fortune*) and the role of the English villain in the latest *Die Hard* movie.

Andrews has no regrets about the different ways in which his and Irons' careers have developed. "We're very different characters and very different actors. I think my sights were set differently."



Andrews saddled with an aristocratic image

His first producer credit did not come about until 1992, when he was invited to star in the Russian film *Lost in Siberia*. "They were particularly keen to make a Russian film that would work in the West, which was why I was cast. The moment I got involved, it became clear the only way I could help this to happen was to pick up the reins. So I became the producer as well."

Haunted is a ghost story, based on a novel by bestselling author James Herbert. Andrews acquired the rights six years ago, after buying the book at Gatwick airport as good holiday reading for his wife. She spotted its commercial potential as a film and insisted he read it. "It terrified the pants off me. But it was the hero's psychological dilemma that interested me most."

Coincidentally, the director Lewis Gilbert was also interested in filming Herbert's novel, so they joined forces. The finance — a modest \$7.5 million — came not from America, however, but from a French distributor, Lumière, which was keen to move into the international English-speaking market. As that means appealing to a largely American audience, compromises had to be made. These included changes to the main character, to make him playable by American actor Aidan Quinn, and switching the setting from the present day to the period world of English aristocrats living in their ancestral pile amid the Sussex countryside of the 1920s.

Andrews was persuaded by Gilbert and "the money" to appear in the film as a middle-aged aristocrat, with more than a touch of Sebastian Flyte grown older. Even before *Brideshead*, however, he had been seen by casting directors as the English aristocrat type and he admits that *Brideshead* reinforced that image.

"There's a certain amount of hate that develops inside one to kick the image of Sebastian Flyte. At the same time it's something that I am eternally grateful for. It gave me the ability to work internationally, particularly in America. And you have to pay the bills."

Roles which have paid the bills in the past few years include a chunk of American mini-series, including playing the Duke of Windsor in *The Woman He Loved*. Andrews has turned down offers to star in long-running serials in America, preferring to give his children the sort of English upbringing he had himself. Surprisingly, that was a comparatively modest one.

Andrews' musician father met his mother, a dancer, in the 1940s. When his father died, she brought up five children. "I still don't have an inkling how she managed it," Andrews says. "I do remember the constant robbing of Peter to pay Paul, and not wanting to walk past certain shops because you owed them too much money. But what I remember more than anything else is a great deal of camaraderie and happiness."

CAROL ALLEN

Geoff Brown enjoys the latest from the director Gus Van Sant

Isn't she something else? Matt Dillon murmurs proudly of his wife. And so she is: a blonde WASP beauty from Little Hope, New Hampshire, with the smile of a cobra and a brain shrunken through years of addiction to American television. Surface appearances are everything to Nicole Kidman's character, a television weathergirl, in *To Die For*. Corbachev would still be in power, she says, if only his birthmark had been removed.

Nearly every week a new American film comes along in praise of the clueless, the dumb and dumber, or the blank smile of a Forrest Gump. But *To Die For*, well, something else. For one thing the director is Gus Van Sant, champion of counter-cultures, visual magician, the man who created *Drugstore Cowboy* and *My Own Private Idaho*.

For another, the script never rests content with the characters' relatively low IQ. In adapting Joyce Maynard's novel, Buck Henry digs deep, sets up a spoof documentary structure riddled with ironies, and sculpts shapely lines. So many films sit on the screen like a treacle pudding around the waist; this darts about, endlessly vibrant.

True, there is nothing new about criticising television for its vacuity, its creation of false gods, and glorification of crime. (At the start of the tale Matt Dillon, unglamorous owner of the town's Italian restaurant, lies dead, victim of a glittering career.) But beyond the barbed satire, Van Sant cradles even the unlikely characters with sympathy. Especially the forlorn adolescents Kidman recruits to help to make a television documentary called *Teens Speak Out*: one is a broody punk, one a plump frump, another obsessed with private parts, and Van Sant loves them all.

They become Kidman's acolytes, puppets eager to help to remove the one seeming obstacle to a glorious career — an unmouth husband bent on starting a family. The part does not stretch Matt Dillon, but his dogged devotion to his monster wife is very appealing. The film's success, though, hinges on Kidman's ruthless heroine. She plays it cool and tight, and you quickly relish her wicked ways.

Eric Bogosian, the nutty villain in *Under Siege 2*, likes to entertain his foes with profound thoughts. "Chance favours the prepared mind" is one. "Technology can be used for beauty or debasement" is another. The film itself plumps for debasement: nobody watching this dismal exercise in pleasing the lowest of common denominators would ever guess that action movies can have well-integrated special effects, sensible characters and plots that grip.

The first *Under Siege* was no earth-shaker, but it delivered its goods with a flourish, even with the impressive Steven Seagal as leading man. Lightning does not strike twice. But the storyline does. After saving the world from nuclear destruction when an American battleship is hijacked by rogue military warriors, Seagal's special operative turned cook now saves the world when a train is hijacked by more rogue males, led by a cracked technological genius able to grab control of a government satellite weapon secretly orbiting the globe.

This is the *Die Hard* formula. Seagal does not seek trouble; he runs into it. Travelling on the train with his niece, he works his way through, under and over the carriages, kicking and blasting the opposition to bits. There is much back projection of the Rockies, and much awful dialogue flaily delivered. "There is also a director going to waste. Geoff Murphy started out in New Zealand making *Goodbye Pork Pie* and *The Quiet Earth*, films alive to character, landscape and his country's culture. Now he makes Hollywood factory product: films with no flavour and no brain."

There is no doubting the origins of *Take Care of Your Scarf, Tatjana*. This hails from Aki Kaurismäki country, that land of deadpan humour, melancholia, rock music and booze that Kaurismäki has carved out of his native Finland. Recent trips to the territory have not been too rewarding: *Leningrad Cowboys meet Moses* was deservedly passed over for British distribution. But *Tatjana* is another matter: this hour-long tale of two morose men on the road in the 1960s, struggling to connect with two Russian girls bound for a ferry home, is exquisitely comic and tender, and beautifully shot in black and white.

Kaurismäki's men are his usual sort: black leather jackets, greasy hair, addicted to coffee and vodka. The Russian girls chatter about crop yields and throw out flirtatious signals. But the men scarcely look in their faces: one hand placed awkwardly around a shoulder is the extent of body contact. The sense of lost lives, cut off from the world, is amplified by the soundtrack: rock 'n' roll numbers may set the scene (one of the men, played by Matti Pellonpää, fancies himself a rocker), but it is the anguish of Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* that dominates.

Kaurismäki pares his film to the bone. No shot is too protracted, no gesture unne-



Woman on top: Nicole Kidman is the ruthlessly ambitious wife of Matt Dillon's restaurant owner in *To Die For*

cessary. But if the images are precise, the effect is complex: when love appears to sprout between these zombies, absurdity and poignancy go hand in hand. Kaurismäki's troupe have his minimalist style to perfection: none more so than the lamented Pellonpää, the weasel-faced actor featured in many Kaurismäki films, who died earlier this year.

Any melancholy lingering from *Tatjana* will evaporate with its companion piece at the ICA, *Total Balalaika Show*. This is Kaurismäki's hour-long record of a 1992 Helsinki concert blending the rock sounds of the Leningrad Cowboys, famous for their quiffs and pointed boots, with the hearty chorus, brass and ban-

jos of the Red Army Ensemble. The two groups perform separately, but the film's magic is strongest when they fuse for rock numbers such as *Happy Together*. Good music, fun and friendship pour from the screen: this must be the happiest film around.

The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin is another by-product of Communism's collapse. After Vladimir Voinovich's comic novel about a dolish soldier in the Second World War and the absurdities of Russia's military machine was published in the West in 1969, the author faced persecution and exile. But with the Iron Curtain lifted, it was possible to mount a film

version, using funds from five European countries, and to hire the director Jiri Menzel, ornament of the Czech New Wave 30 years ago, and a man trapped for too long making careful exercises in nostalgia.

Unfortunately the passing of time has made *Ivan Chonkin* seem if not superfluous then certainly old-fashioned. History has removed the material's sting, leaving us with a gentle tale of human folly, of frolics in the potato field and mindless military bureaucracy. Directing his Russian cast on Czech locations, Menzel's affection for his characters shines through; and Zoya Burjak's heroine beams with peasant spirit. But you cannot escape the feeling

of watching a film made a little too slackly, 30 years too late.

In *Haunted*, based on James Herbert's novel, *The Turn of the Screw* meets *Brideshead Revisited*. Look at the prop list: one governess who sees ghosts, three children, one stately home, one Anthony Andrews. To help the mixture to go down in America, there is also an American star, Aidan Quinn: the sudden appearance of his nasal drawl from the mouth of a character previously seen as a nice English boy is the film's first shock. Director Lewis Gilbert, a battle-scarred veteran of the British cinema, works hard at generating others, but a terrible script and a crawling pace make all effort redundant.

"KIDMAN IS TERRIFIC... ENORMOUS FUN"

Geoff Andrews' TIME OUT

nicole kidman

"Magnificent... the film belongs to Kidman."

"Volcanically sexy and richly comic... deserves to make her an Oscar favourite."

TO DIE FOR

She knows what it took to get to this too.

A lot of heart. And a little head.

FROM TOMORROW
AND CINEMAS NATIONWIDE

FROM JAMES HERBERT'S
No.1 BEST SELLING NOVEL

AIDAN QUINN
KATE BECKINSALE
ANTHONY ANDREWS
JOHN GIELGUD

A FILM BY LEWIS GILBERT

Haunted

A SUPERNATURAL TALE OF LOVE AND MYSTERY

IN THE WEST END AND
AT A CINEMA NEAR YOU FROM TOMORROW



CHOICE 1
Matthew Kelly stars in a staging of *The Cabinet of Doktor Caligari*
VENUE: All week at the Lyric, Hammersmith



CHOICE 2
Max Stafford-Clark directs Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Break of Day*
VENUE: All week at the Leicester Haymarket

THE TIMES ARTS



POP
No airs or graces, just powerful music-making from Alison Moyet in her absorbing *Albert Hall* gig



DANCE
Compelling stage pictures are painted by the duo known as Mal Pelo, the "bad hair" group from Spain

The star who lives next door

On the wet street outside stand coaches down for the evening from Rayleigh, Colchester, and their environs. Alison Moyet has always been proud to be an Essex girl — her most recent studio LP was called *Basidon*, in honour of her birthplace — and Essex remains proud of her.

No airs assumed or graces striven for. "I sound like a fishwife, don't I?" she observes of her between-songs speaking voice. Meanwhile, its musical counterpart exhibits all the wave-defying force of a trawler ploughing nets.

Alison Moyet
Albert Hall

An opening take on Ewan MacColl's *The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face* pretty much sets the tone, with Moyet flailing her arms and appearing to head imaginary footballs in those odd moments when she is not giving its lyric a good seeing-to. Roberta Flack breathed the words as if they were a litany too sacred to issue from the human mouth, but our Alison bites them off, chews them thoroughly and then spits them out. You feel thrilled, unnered and in need of protective

headgear, all at the same time. The vintage Keny Lester track *Love Letters* gets more respectful treatment, but rather loses its melody along the way. Her own *All Cried Out* falls between the two stools; the delivery is less ferocious, but its tune goes awol. A fine and faithful reading of *Only You*, her 1982 hit as vocalist with Yazoo, brings us to intermission time. "Now you can empty your bladders and get the beers in," coaxes her hostess.

Then she's back, and still in black. "I bet you were expecting a change of outfit," she predicts correctly. "I was consider-

ing sequins, but they don't do much for a fat girl's hips." There is a similar, straight-talking, unwillingness to compromise in bringing her music to the masses. Many of those here have been lured in by ownership of her recent, chart-topping compilation of past singles, and are left looking alarmed by the likes of *Love Resurrection*, being revisited under thuggish new arrangements. The preponderance of non-hit material too makes it perfectly clear that her self-image is as anything but a cabaret artist.

The encores are the truest moments, exposing both strengths and weaknesses. Jacques Brel's *Ne Me Quitte Pas*, sung in French, is absurdly overwrought and almost loud enough to be heard in Le Havre, but remains oddly



Alison Moyet: Essex girl charging in where others fear to tread

touching for all that. A sly, self-revealing romp through *A Thing I'd Never Do*, the semi-poignant good-time girl song from *Grease*, proves the most absorbing performance of all, though. This is Moyet both justifying

her persona and sending it up, and finally it places all the bluff and bombast in something approaching an appreciable context.

ALAN JACKSON

LONDON

JOLSON: Opening night for the story of the first man to speak in movies, with Brian Cox in the lead and a sequence of songs from the Jolson repertoire. Rob Bantson directs a £2 million slice of backstage melodrama. Victoria Palace, Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-934 1317). Tonight, 7pm. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; Wed, Sat, 3pm. (S)

ART AND POWER: The Hayward uses the anniversary year to launch a ground-breaking exhibition, Art and Power: Europe under the dictators 1930-1945. A stark look at how art, architecture and film were subverted and used as propaganda to further the ideals of the regimes of Hitler, Stalin and Mussolini. Hayward Gallery, South Street, Croydon, SE1 (0171-628 3144). Mon, Thurs-Sun, 10am-6pm; Tue and Wed, 10am-8pm. Until Jan 21. (S)

THE CABINET OF DOCTOR CALIGARI: A stage version of the German silent classic, premiered at Nottingham. Good sets, understated music, powerful dancing but a haunting performance by John Ramer as Matthew Kelly's doppelgänger. Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6

EDDIE IZZARD: The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5369). Tue-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 7.30pm. (S)

FUNNY MONEY: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce, *Charlie Dicks* as a comedy-drama. Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5369). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7.30pm. (S)

HOBSON'S CHOICE: Leo McKern in the title role of Harold Brighouse's warm-hearted comedy. National, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5369). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7.30pm. (S)

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Eloquent and successful production by Sean Mathews of Sondheim's Swedish chamber. Jud Dench, Patricia Hodge, Sanjiv Patel and Lennie Wilson among the stars shining in the night. National (Oxford), South Bank, SE1 (0171-628 2252). Tonight, 7.15pm; Mon-Sat, 8pm. (S)

NEW RELEASES

CANADIAN BACON (PG): The US stars Canada with results. Currey, one-pipe comedy from documentary maverick Michael Moore, with John Cusack and Alan Alda. MGM Pictorial (0171-437 3561)

CLUELESS (12): Life and empty minds of Beverly Hills teenagers. Foulous fun from director F. Gary Hart, with Alicia Silverstone. Miramax (0171-379 5369)

THE CABINET OF DOCTOR CALIGARI: A stage version of the German silent classic, premiered at Nottingham. Good sets, understated music, powerful dancing but a haunting performance by John Ramer as Matthew Kelly's doppelgänger. Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6

MORTAL KOMBAT (15): Comics version of the video game, all lights and special effects. With Christopher Lambert. Director, Paul Anderson. Miramax (0171-379 5369)

HAVE I MET YOU YET? (12): Hugh Grant's Hollywood debut as a comedy about parenthood from home. Alone director Chris Columbus. With Julianne Moore.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

(0171-741 2111) Preview tonight-Oct 26, 7.30pm. Opens Oct 31, 7pm. (S)

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Endings of 31 animals, insects and other creatures make up a touring exhibition of *Pleasant*. Theatre Royal, Theatre Street (01603 60000). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; Sun, 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm. (S)

SALESBURY: Final week of performances for the season opens Nicholas Le Prevost's grand-looking production of *Our Mutual Friends*. Wilde's witty and perceptive expose of society in high political places. Nicholas Le Prevost's production of *Our Mutual Friends*. Wilde's witty and perceptive expose of society in high political places. Nicholas Le Prevost's production of *Our Mutual Friends*. Wilde's witty and perceptive expose of society in high political places.

LEICESTER: The second work in Out of Joint's two-part, pre-London tour is Timberlake Wertenbaker's *The Break of Day*, set 100 years after the first play, *The Silences*, is now. An excellent

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

MACK AND MABEL: The Jerry Herman musical set in early Hollywood where the careers of Mack Sennett and Mabel Normand unfold and clash. Fine songs, though a little overdone. Royal, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5369). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7.30pm. (S)

SALAD DAYS: The magic piano plays again. Sean Mathews production of the engaging *Salad Days* by Sondheim. Reynolds musical, with Kit and the Widow in the company, and directed by Ned Sherrin. Richmond, The Green, Richmond (0171-839 1723). Tonight, 7.15pm; Mon-Sat, 8pm. (S)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the symbol (S) on release across the country

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CHOICE 2

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Mal Pelo — the "bad hair" group from Spain returning to the place as part of *Dance Umbrella* — has an oblique style that intrigues rather than frustrates. The long slabs of song and speech in Spanish and Italian were a definite hindrance, but Pep Ramis and Maria Muñoz, the two performer-directors who make up Mal Pelo, think in such vivid pictures that the eye was consistently captivated.

These stage pictures have an almost Japanese flavour in their powerfully spare, symbolic representations and focus on rustic, organic nature — on wood, straw, water. They bring their own distinct layer, running parallel to the words, but obviously inspired by and occasionally converging with them.

In the opening solo, *Dol*, Ramis includes a rope, winged

Good hair and bad politics

tricycle and empty birdcage in depicting a man's confrontation with the death of someone he loves, whose soul has flown away like a bird. *Zarco*, which formed the rest of the programme, presents three successive situations and settings in which Ramis, Muñoz and the cellist Tristan Honsinger interact, sometimes swapping functions so that Honsinger also moves and speaks and at one point Ramis plays a second cello.

In *Mar de Pablo*, the final instalment of this trilogy, Honsinger narrates the tale of Pablo, who has never seen the sea and Marina, who talks to him about the sea and takes care of him. Honsinger stands on a platform planted with a tree and an aquarium, which

might be the lonely puddle Pablo used to inhabit before meeting Marina, or the sea he imagines.

The stories are as timeless and strange as fables, and in each Muñoz appears as an entirely different person: fat and motherly; a lively young girl; a mature, orange-robed woman whirling to a waltz in solitary romantic infatuation.

The dance language of Mal Pelo is as economical and non-synthetic as its design, but it is intense precision in its channelled energy and bold graphic contours. Above all, in Mal Pelo Spanish new dance possesses supremely accomplished ambassadors.

I were a lesbian, I would be very angry about Gay Sweatshop's lesbian horror ballet *The Hand* (now at the Hackney Empire). Given that this piece's five lesbian characters could just as logically have been heterosexual men and women, it must surely have gay activism on its agenda.

But then why paint lesbianism as homicidal erotomania, a midhouse of perversion? This would perhaps be acceptable as an inverted joke, a take on the prejudice against homosexuality. But although this collaborative piece piles on dismembered bodies with as much frenzy as it uses the F and C words, it rarely managed to raise a titter at the outrageousness.

The text, mostly written by Stella Duffy, has ambitions to fine writing, but labours leadenly. The plot ends apocalyptically, with heaving, blood-spattered figures and declarations about chaos, which seem more like a cop-out than a resolution.

Emilyn Claid (co-director with Lois Weaver) has choreographed sequences which might look better if the performers were professional dancers. However, since her purpose is to equate squallor with thrillification I do not think I would ever find them appealing. The explicit simulations of sexual acts and physical abuse suggest that the reason is not only determined to tell a story, but like 'swimming' defiant teenagers who have just discovered sex, to shove the discovery in our faces.

NADINE MEISNER

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THEATRE 1
In *The Phoenician Women*, director Katie Mitchell rehabilitates a play that has been underrated too long



THEATRE 2
The award-winning production of Priestley's *An Inspector Calls* is back in the West End yet again

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 3
Enjoy the sharp satire and hilarious comedy of Shakespeare *Revue*, with *The Times Theatre Club*



TOMORROW
The eagerly awaited release from pop's great outsiders: will Pulp's new album make the grade?

A neglected Greek classic becomes a masterpiece; Priestley's spectral policeman still stuns; kitchen-sink surrealism

Minimal to the maximum

To say that everything she touches turns to gold might annoy Katie Mitchell. Like Shakespeare's Bassanio, she knows the value of plain lead. Again and again she has stripped stages to their bare boards and given us costumes of simple grey, and again and again she has created more tension than directors who have splattered theatres with every hue in the spectrum.

She does the same at the *Other Place*, and her reward is the rehabilitation (or perhaps I should say habilitation) of a play that has been ignored or underrated for more than 2,000 years.

The first problem with Euripides's *Phoenician Women* is that we know the characters from acknowledged masterpieces: Sophocles's *Oedipus at Colonus* and *Antigone*, Aeschylus's *Seven against Thebes*. When you hear Eteocles talk about defending his city from his brother's invasion, or Creon forbid Polyneices's burial after the siblings have killed each other, you cannot help wondering if an upstart playwright is not exploiting his elders.

But that is nonsense. The great Greek tragedians felt duty-bound to keep treating the key legends, which is why we have versions of Orestes's murder of his mother from all three. But Sophocles and Aeschylus were selective and concentrated when they wrote about the collapse of the House of Laius and of his son and scourge, Oedipus. They made whole plays out of key incidents, while Euripides, packed in pretty well the entire myth in a 130-minute sprawl that academics continue to find shallow and melodramatic.

You can see their point. Euripides

begins by introducing Jocasta, who has not only failed to commit suicide after discovering her husband is her son, but seems still to be shocked up with the blind, deposed Oedipus in Thebes itself. She retells the whole sad tale: grim prophecies, ancient Greek road rage, and all. And on we go, via the battle of the brothers, via guest-appearances by the eternal Teiresias and Oedipus himself, to what may and may not be a spurious ending, with Antigone promising to bury her brother and take her father to his apotheosis at Colonus. It is sketchy and even con-

fused at times, but, as Mitchell directs the play, it is real, real, real. When Lorraine Ashbourne's blunt, grimy Jocasta mentally trudges through that awful life-story for what must be the billionth time, you feel her numb disbelief and almost bored pain. When she confronts Demetrius's Polyneices, who has come from Argos to claim Thebes from his brother, her moods switch from joy to relief, to resentment to anger to anxiety to fear, as any mother's might. There, everywhere, myth becomes man-sized.

But that is not enough to justify reviving the play. If Euripides has reduced a mountain to a molehill, why should we care? If he has yet again warned us of the callousness of curse-happy gods, does it matter? But although everyone from Athena to Dionysus is invoked during the evening, it is clear that fierce human passion rather than divine caprice explains the corpses that pack the stage at the end. This is a play about ambition, greed, intransigence, and the threat and terror of war.

That is not surprising, as it was written in AD409, when Sparta was



The chorus of *The Phoenician Women*, "where less is more and understatement usually eloquence"

getting dangerously close to doing to Athens what Polyneices's Argos tried to do to Eteocles's Thebes. What is surprising is that the speeches about the stupidity and bestiality of Greek killing Greek and brother murdering brother have dated so little. The great central scene in which Jocasta brings all her sense and foresight to the task of mediating between her warring sons may and may not have stirred consciences among Athens's less far-headed citizens. It certainly touches chords, or discords, today.

To meet Sean Murray's Eteocles is not only to meet the Athenian envoys who ended up justifying the destruc-

tion of Melos on the grounds that might was right. It is to meet scores of this century's leaders, Kaiser Bill to Saddam Hussein. Polyneices is ugly enough, prepared as he is to ruin the city of his birth, but at least he has justice on his side. The only half-altruistic motive Eteocles claims is the still-familiar one that it will be humiliating for Thebes to give in to threats. His real argument is that a throne is worth the shedding of any amount of other people's blood: "Save morality for issues less tremendous."

It is enthralling stuff, but then so are the play's lesser events, which include the evolution of Lucy

Whybrow's Antigone from a nervous, excited girl to the hurt, outraged woman Sophocles knew, and, by way of demonstrating the alternatives to cynicism and hate, the attempt of Creon's son Menoeceus to save Thebes by sacrificing himself.

As for the chorus, it trips and circles in simple gowns in front of tiny candlelit staves. That is enough, indeed more than enough, for this is a production where less is always more and understatement usually eloquence.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Soft and scrambled

THE flat lonely fens must be our answer to America's red-neck heartland, Kate Bassett writes. Nick Ward's new play, staged by the writer, returns to the East Anglian farmlands of his screen drama *Dakota Road*. In *Trouble Sleeping*, Terry Daley is still living with his mother. Played by neanderthal-jawed Peter-Hugo Daly, he slumps, stares, polishes his shotgun and watches porn videos in the small hours. Sandra Voe's Mrs Daley is a simple churchgoing widow, but her possessiveness mingles with her subservience. Then Ursula (Eve Pearce), her long-absent sister, arrives, simultaneously begging care and staking her claim to the farm, with Angela, a young prostitute, in tow. Terry, jealous and allured, stalks the house like an inbred nightmare.

Ward has a sensitive ear for

inarticulate talk. Pearce has unsettling proprietorial forcefulness. However, the piece is not yet sharp. Daly is comic but could be more disturbing. Miranda Pleasence's manipulative Angela does not turn the screw to generate real tension. Voe appears uncomfortable with her monologues. Jane Singleton's design tunes into the play's mix of slice-of-life and surrealism. The kitchen sink and shelves of bleak crockery set against a washed-out skyscape of light clouds.

Ward's drama, however, drifts rather than coming to the boil. True, his starting point is a world of slow-wits where, it seems, nothing happens. Mrs Daley cooks an egg, inertly watching the steam rise. There is bold experimentation and humour in such a curtain-raiser. But, dragged on, it all starts to smell of rotten timing.

Trouble Sleeping
Warehouse, Croydon

Royal National Theatre

The Way of the World

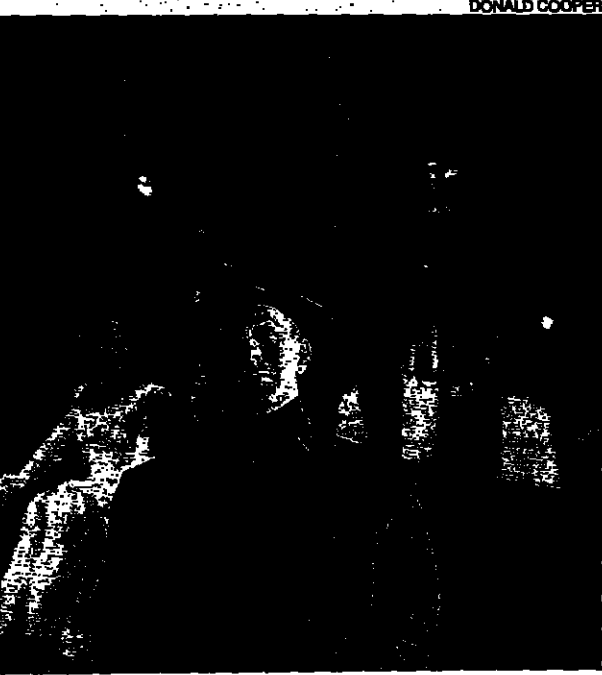
by William Congreve

"Geraldine McEwan in scintillating form... a major comic creation" Evening Standard

"The Way of the World has come up to date in Phyllida Lloyd's new production... the transformation works brilliantly" Observer

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Nicholas Woodeson (foreground) as Goole, the avenging angel of Priestley's class-conscious *An Inspector Calls*

A revival revived and revivifying

That inspector just keeps on calling. In J.B. Priestley's detective drama from 1945, Inspector Goole knocks at the Birling's well-to-do door in raincoat and trilby like a thousand coppers in a thousand cosy murder mysteries. But, rolling up his sleeves for a sharp political twist, he is revealed to be a socialist from the beyond.

Goole is a spiritual private eye interrogating the guilty consciences of the upper bracket. They are collectively implicated in the death of a working-class girl, their chain of thoughtless dismissals culminating in her suicide. For their sins, Goole comes knocking on and on for eternity.

And here, again, is Stephen Daldry's award-winning production, which started at the National in 1992 and went on to the West End and then

An Inspector Calls

Garrick

Broadway. There is clearly no law against reviving revivals. All well and good, it turns out. This strongly recast staging proves fresh and firm.

There is the odd wobble from the hinged walls of designer Ian MacNeil's big doll's house, but that is eclipsed by the power of the symbolic vision of decent facades and class barriers stripped away. This dark dresscode is still stunning. The house, standing on perilous stilts and with alarmingly overgrown *nouveaux riches* inhabitants, lords it over a wasteland of cratered cobbles.

Helen Schlesinger is superb as Miss Birling, smiling with glazed eyes like a pretty

frocked Edwardian automaton, soon shaken out of her naivety into brave new moral responsibility. Tom Goodman-Hill shines as her brother, starting like a public school twerp with a comic jerkiness which grows into stricken shaking. Edward Peel is slightly stiff as their papa, the industrial magnate, but Susan Engel is amusingly ghastly as his supercilious wife, rounding off an "I beg your pardon" like a cornered rat snake turning on Nicholas Woodeson's tiny but tough Goole.

The theatrical framing of Priestley's play, watched by a little lad who tugs on the faded velvet curtain and kicks a wireless into life, is a wee bit cute. Priestley himself does bang on with obvious didacticism, but he steers the plot in surprising directions. Stephen

Warbeck's old-style thriller music is fun. Meanwhile, Goole, calling the comfortably-off to account for wrecking countless poor lives with miserly pay, mercenary sackings and scant charity, has an alarmingly modern ring.

KATE BASSETT

No holds Bard

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

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Roger Scruton on a critique of French intellectuals

Treason in the cafés

I suppose I am typical of my generation of Englishmen, in having received an education which was largely apolitical. The modern books that most impressed me during adolescence — Eliot's *Four Quartets*, Leavis's *Revaluation*, Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* — seemed to me to have no political message. My teachers at school and university made no show of their political opinions, and only occasionally hinted at what they might be. By the time of graduation I had learned on my intellectual heroes — Wagner, Eliot, Joyce, Schoenberg, Wittgenstein and Rilke — but admired them for reasons which had nothing to do with politics, thinking them to be far above such mundane concerns. It was a rude shock to find myself in Paris, surrounded by contemporaries who spent their days throwing stones at policemen, their evenings studying Althusser, and their brief moments of leisure trading paradoxes from Foucault's *Les Mots et les Choses*.

I read the works which my French contemporaries took with them to the barricades, and was amazed. Those clean white paperbacks seemed to contain no arguments, no observations of reality, no history or criticism, but only words — words arranged according to a political agenda, and regardless of their sense. And always it was the same agenda. The writer was locked in combat with something called the bourgeoisie; this thing had been in power for a long time — since 1789 — to be precise — and was the fount of all oppression. The writer, however, had won through the written word a path to liberation — and his message was being made available to the reader. Whether Sartre in *Saint Genet*, Foucault in *La Histoire de la folie*, Barthes in *L'Écriture du corps*, the writer had one thing of overriding urgency to convey: all forms, all manners, all morals and structures are merely the instruments of bourgeois domination, and all is permitted to the one who wishes to smash them down.

This stuff was in due course to infect the English and American universities. At the time, however, it merely persuaded me to side with the French bourgeoisie, with de Gaulle as their representative, the police as their defenders and Valéry as their poet laureate. It also prompted certain questions which refused to go away. When we English speak of an "educated" person, or a "scholar", we generally mean someone who stands above the *mêlée* of political life. When the French speak of an intellectual, they mean someone who is fighting in the midst of it, but with words rather than deeds. How did this phenomenon of the intellectual arise, and how should it now be judged? Those are the questions which Bernard-Henri Lévy addresses in this book, and consideration of them is surely long overdue.



Lévy: searching his soul

ADVENTURES ON THE FREEDOM ROAD

By Bernard-Henri Lévy
Harvill, £30

Lévy traces the story back to the Dreyfus case, and Zola's famous declaration — *J'accuse*. Not all of Zola's successors, he points out, have been on the Left. There was Charles Maurras and *Action Française*, Drieu La Rochelle and the Nazis, and a host of lesser figures who rushed to join the Resistance during the last months of the occupation. Nevertheless, the majority of those who have adopted the life of the French intellectual have consecrated that life to some political cause — usually leftist, revolutionary and offensive to the decencies of Catholic France. In the course of doing so they have produced more disgusting apologetics for tyranny than have soiled the entire history of literature — and Lévy documents with devastating effect some of the worst of them.

In my day the hero was Mao — and not a word could be uttered in 1968 against this mass murderer, whose inebriated writings were being sold by the thousand on the Boulevard St Michel, and whose prison uniform, imposed on the Chinese as a token of their enslavement, was willingly adopted by their Parisian contemporaries as a sign of "liberation" from the "structures". Sartre was particularly poisonous in encouraging this idolatry which he passed on to the Cambodian students who were to return home to participate in the ruin of their country. Later Foucault was to sing the praises of the Iranian "revolution" under Ayatollah Khomeini, while before my day the idol had been Stalin, Lenin or Trotsky.

Lévy is himself a French intellectual and was for a time prone to the disease that he describes. He is softer on his contemporaries than I would have been, is still persuaded — as I am not — that the Republican cause in Spain was the right one, and remains wedded to the conception of "human rights" that animated the French Revolution and which is, in my view, at the root of leftist apologetics for tyranny. He seems to recognise that Sartre, at least, was engaged in open warfare not with the bourgeoisie, but with the God of Jews and Christians, whose imperious sovereignty leaves so little room for his earthly competitors.

But Lévy does not draw the obvious conclusion. His narrative is short on explanations, and peters out in anecdote whenever they are truly required. This may be because *Adventures* is also "the book of the film", containing passages of dialogue with survivors that no doubt made more sense when part of the original television series than they do on the page. While he has done a valuable service in collating so much information, Lévy has not really looked beyond the symptoms of the "intellectual disease" to its underlying cause — perhaps because that would have required him to look more deeply into his own heart.

François Boucher's *Resting Girl* (1752) depicts Louise Murphy, mistress of Louis XV; Diderot had no time for Boucher's "breasts and buttocks"

The French philosopher Denis Diderot was confident that posthumous fame would be his. Since he published very little (apart from the *Encyclopédie*), he could speak his mind freely in private or semi-private manuscripts, such as his contributions to the *Correspondance Littéraire*, a handwritten periodical which had a tiny readership, though Catherine the Great and Frederick the Great were both subscribers. The *Salons* are clearly the pioneering work of modern art criticism. They are also a trenchant account of the state of French art between 1759 and 1781: Diderot had no fear of the censors or the artistic establishment.

His qualifications as critic of the biennial Louvre exhibitions were perhaps more obvious to him than to others. If he initially knew little about matters of artistic technique, his readers probably knew less: Diderot's easy, conversational

First critic of modern art

Angelica Gooden

DIDEROT ON ART
I: The Salon of 1765
and Notes on Painting
II: The Salon of 1767
Edited by John Goodman
Yale University Press,
£30/£12.95pbk each vol.

THE WOMAN OF IDEAS IN FRENCH ART, 1830-1848
By Janis Bergman-Cartton
Yale University Press, £20

style of writing (not always well preserved in this translation) made his commentaries as accessible to them as his fiction was. Besides, he had a powerful visual imagination and memory, claiming to be able to conjure up every picture seen in a gallery 20 years before. Imagination could take him far from the work itself, it is true: "Enormous composition, enormous bit of foolishness," he announces, before recomposing a picture as he would have liked to see it himself. He was, after all, the man whose suggestions for pictorial subjects were applauded by major artists of the time, and who apparently exclaimed: "Son pitior anch' io!" ("I am a painter too") as he wrote his novel *La Religieuse*.

His taste for storytelling makes the *Salons* readable, but also diminishes their documentary usefulness. How was Catherine II to decide on the French paintings she needed for the Hermitage if Diderot told her not what a picture was, but what it should be? He chafed at the absence of reproductive facilities that would have eased his task: how much less reportage he would have to do, he noted in the 1767 *Salon*. If his readers all possessed sketches of the works he was discussing, Out of frustration, he wove supplementary stories even around pictures he admired, like Verne's landscapes or Fragonard's mythological canvas *Coréus et Callirhoe* (which Diderot describes as a series of *tableaux mouvans* presented in the cave of Plato's Republic).

This makes him an ambiguous critic in more ways than one. Though he was enraged when Boucher became First

Painter in 1765, saying that he was tired of breasts and buttocks, he reacted very differently to Greuze's suggestiveness: Greuze was both a preacher of bourgeois morality and a man who enjoyed painting sexually provocative women, and Diderot loved his work. He also enthused over Chardin, bringing a more purely aesthetic appreciation to his still-lives and portraits. Yet he exaggerated Chardin's devotion to the real, perhaps as a sharp contrast with the "little infamies" of the Rococo school. Chardin is not the mere copyist Diderot describes, but an interpreter of nature too.

Diderot too interprets, to the joy of some and the annoyance of others. His task, he thought, was in one respect harder than the artist's: he had to convey a visual object with words, not paint. Despite wanting to be "simple and true" with Chardin, he knew that words fell short of the depiction: it is impossible to describe Verne's scenes,

he cried, one must see them. Yet his work fully exploits the expressive possibilities of language, mingling dialogue and soliloquy, lyricism and apot, the sublime register and the language of the atelier.

The *Salons* display their author's moral fervour and his sensuality, his liking for decorum and his penchant for horror, melodrama and high sentimentality. One reads them as a subjective response to art, not a dry catalogue of exhibits. As he grew older, Diderot became discouraged at the ungratefulness of his task: private criticism, he knew, could not change the course of painting. No doubt this explains the brevity and badness of the last *Salons*. But at their best they illustrate a great writer's sustained effort to discover the laws of artistic creation.

What defined the woman of ideas in Louis-Philippe's France? According to Janis Bergman-Cartton's *Women of Ideas in French Art, 1830-1848*, it was a taste for reading books rather than cuddling babies (which makes Emma Bovary an unlikely member of the tribe). Alternatively, it might have been a penchant for transvestism ("the performative act of moving costumed through public space"), or an enthusiasm for engaging in the kind of protest against male domination associated with the cross-dresser, George Sand, whose novels are filled with women frustrated and maddened by their lack of education and the slavery of marriage.

Parisian women of ideas launched various magazines that "articulated the feminist agenda" in the 1830s and 1840s, so contributing to what

the critic Sainte-Beuve called "la littérature industrielle". Their reward was to be caricatured by artists like Daumier, a Rousseauist who had no truck with women's liberation from domesticity: he wanted them to remain angelic breast-feeders, not scribblers bent over piles of pamphlets.

An interesting short book could have been written about the proliferation of anti-blue-stocking prints under the July Monarchy. But Bergman-Cartton attempts more, seeking to pinpoint the same motif in "high" art. The subject, though, proves elusive: apart from the ever-present George Sand, Flaubert's mistress Louise Colet and a few *salonnieres*, the thinking woman-in-rolls is striking by her absence. If she is never viciously attacked *à la Daumier*, that is because she is, as the author ruefully acknowledges, "never even identified".

Why not? Surely, in part, because of residual anti-feminism. Louis-Philippe's France saw notable feminist activity in intellectual and political life, but artists rarely celebrated it. Were they closet misogynists, or less explicit than Rousseau and Napoleon had been? If the noble art of painting refused to lower itself to the caricature level, it could simply, and decorously, choose to ignore the phenomenon of the *femme savante*.

But there may have been more purely artistic reasons. Intellectual activity is easier to lampoon than to exalt. One solution was to resort to symbolism. Vigée Le Brun's faintly ludicrous portrait of Mme de Staël shows that quintessential woman of ideas improvising on a lyre, like the heroine of Staël's bestseller *Corinne* (wrongly described here as a letter-novel).

Flaubert's ideal was to write a book about nothing. This is a book with no more than half a subject, and is altogether undemanding by the attention to style which was Flaubert's other obsession.

Broken promises of paradise past

Rachel Campbell-Johnston

ELYSIUM
By Robert Edric
Duckworth, £14.99
OUR LADY OF THE POTATOES
By Duncan Sprott
Faber, £8.99pbk original

It is Hobart Town, Tasmania, 1869: over 50 years since Britain first set in train the ruthless persecutions which were gradually to extinguish the native population. *Elysium* is based on the true story of the last pure-bred male Tasmanian Aboriginal on the island. As the novel opens, the reader finds William Charles Edward Albert Lanné in the grip of the authorities, and awaiting the arrival of James Fairfax, a young English geneticist who has come to study him.

Elysium unfolds the haunting moment of the dying of a nation's history. "There is no way forward," says Eumarah, the aged Aboriginal woman with whom Lanné lives. "They draw their lines with you and me... with you and me they close their book." Any attempts at evasion are useless. For the dissolute, but sharply intelligent Lanné, destiny is a stake to which he will be tied, "expectation piled like brushwood at his feet".

The Tasmania which Robert Edric depicts is a stagnant place. The land is in the grip of a terrible drought which has parched the rivers, kindled bushfires, and spawned a cholera plague. Human sensitivities shrink and congeal in the burning heat. The colonisers' culture has blown rootless as tumbleweed over a devastated land, scattering the seeds of vengeance from which murder sprouts.

The encounter between Fairfax and Lanné dramatises the clash of civilisation and noble savagery. But the meeting is sterile. The futility bred by an eradicated past on one side, and blind personal ambition on the other, dashes any hopes

of retrieving history in order to understand the present or to make a way forward into the future. "There is nothing to improve," Lanné tells the scientist. "Nothing remains. That's the whole point of you being here, remember."

Issues which once seemed clear-cut become tangled and complicated. The certainties of science blur and dissolve into fictions. Ideals are corrupted by the brutal necessities of survival.

The slowness of this volume and the pellucid simplicity of its prose are deceptive. Edric has written a powerful allegory, exploring the way in which the denial of history shakes the very foundations of human belief.

Colourful and energetic as an historical pageant, Duncan Sprott's *Our Lady of the Potatoes* whisks its readers into a flamboyant tableau of 18th-century France. Down Versailles it treads, holling over into the streets of Paris, snubbing among the intrigues of a turbulent city. Gathering force, it is swept into the maelstrom of the

Great Terror. The players disperse, some donning red caps, some fleeing in disguise, while the dogs lap the blood of others from the cobblestones.

Sprott found his inspiration for this novel in François Boucher's portrait of Louis XV's mistress sprawling in sumptuous nudity on rumpled silks, seen above, which tempted him to investigate the life of his subject, here called Marie Louise Murphy, and explore the history of her era through her eyes. Born into a family of adventurous Irish emigrants, Marie Louise (or Morfi, as she becomes known), is the most beautiful of a vast Catholic brood. She learns from her rigorous parents the arts of compromise and camouflage necessary for survival in a precarious world. But at the age of 14, as the model for France's most eminent painter of flesh, she is drawn to the attention of a court emissary. Taken away from her family, she is trained up in all the refinements of a rarefied etiquette, to be proffered as a tempting morsel to tickle the jaded palate of the king. In her subsequent fall from monarchical favour, it takes all her inbred powers of adaptability to play the raw game of survival.

"If you fall in love your heart will break." This maternal advice lies at the centre of Morfi's life. The novel is at root a tragic love story in which a pitiless fate is the chief protagonist. Sprott neither needs, nor uses, explanatory asides. This is a bare, unsentimental presentation of social hypocrisy. Through the ght of descriptive detail the message gleams, as sharp and precise as the guillotine's blade.



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How the Antichrist of our day reveals the word of God

Rachel Crsk

BYRNE

By Anthony Burgess
Hutchinson, £14.99

Anthony Burgess was writing *Byrne*, a novel in verse, almost up to his death in 1993. He finished it on Ash Wednesday, a suitably bleak and penitential day upon which to come to the agonising accommodation with faith, death and renewal at which this novel ultimately arrives. The themes which preoccupy and enthrall Burgess during his writing life loom large at its end, gathered together and locked in a mutually mocking cage of hope where they cannot elude him. It is a strange, occasionally depressing, but certainly very funny, and necessary, containing a story which strains to burst from prose and stray beyond its author's compass. "I caught blood for thin, thick or lightly, darkly," confesses Tompkinson, the narrator, towards the novel's end. "Byrne is the killer. I have not long to go. But I'll outlast that Swiney Tod, I know."

Michael Byrne is both apocryphal and man, a kind of self-elected demigod, in a baroque parody of Genesis, engenders life and then abandons it to its own devices. For his children, too,

Byrne's paternity has the quality of religious faith: its incidence is worldwide and is a matter more of conviction than fact. Byrne is absent, invisible, apprehensible only through his creations. Part Don Juan, part itinerant, an infinitely corruptible anti-saviour, he is the quintessential Burgess villain: a man of weak flesh, a bad artist who calls himself a genius, a serial father, a man who submits to no higher authority and who admits no greater power than the earthly kind.

Our first glimpse of him comes when he forks out tattered cash to pay a self-confessed second-rate scribe to write his testament: "He thought he was a kind of living myth/And hence deserving of *ottava rima*." The scheme that Aristotle juggled with/Apt for a lecherous defective dreamer."

The poet begins with the Byrne family history, as they defect from Ireland to Liverpool in the 19th century. Byrne's father is born late, when his grandfather "thought his wells were dry," and thus the intervention of either God or the Devil is suspected. "Like Saint Joseph, he'd a certain doubt/About his wife the nights that he was out... She spread a table rich for the position of a mere Mersey Harbour Board nightwatchman/The swine, he thought, could hardly be a Scotchman." Byrne's own birth is, however, incontestable: "The figurative bastard/Entered the world snugly legitimate." A spoilt only child, he soon displays a dubious talent for music, loving "the tubs, trumpets and trombones/Which smore his very scrotum with their groans".

Burgess's concern with the post-modern proliferation and corruption of culture, the unregulated aesthetic spawned by the 20th



Burgess blessing the filthy world

century's love of the abstract and dysphonic, is here reiterated. "The war had sanctified the use of discord," and Byrne, ever the opportunist, hitches his star to the

modernist wagon: "The noise took the conservative aback./ But others cooed at it as avant-garde./ There are always intellectuals around/ Who praise the incompetent as the profound."

Having married and fathered twins, Byrne elopes to Nazi Germany with a film actress. "And, at that time, the swastika regime... Had, to the world outside, a sinner gleam." The territory of *Earthly Powers* is here revisited as Byrne, like Kenneth Toomey, is recognised and welcomed as a second-rate artist by those second-rate artists *par excellence*, the Nazi leadership. Interior art is susceptible to evil, and although Byrne is scornful of racial science, his insufficient talent cannot withstand appropriation.

"The nub/ Of his neutrality is seen to lean/ On music's being dumb, hence undidactic -/ A hypothetical defensive tactic." After leaving Germany, Byrne's trail becomes fainter. The narrator

briefly tracks him down in Morocco, and thereafter must rely on the offspring and daubings - he has turned to painting by now - he litters behind him as he drifts across the globe. The narrator cannot, however, desert with his story: his subject's indiscriminate couplings lead him to suspect that he himself might be one of Byrne's creations, inextricably caught in a legacy of failure.

Burgess's preoccupation with the sins of the fathers finds further scope as the story passes to Byrne's identical twin sons, Tim and Tom. They are the products of a split seed and thus, like a split atom, the proprietors of the power to unseat nature. Tim is a priest, "genet violation/ Of all his father stood for," who is in the throes of a loss of faith. Both he and his brother represent some kind of lacuna or full stop in their father's history: Tim has been born with his wedding ring finger missing, and Tom is suffering from testicular cancer. We meet them in middle age, inhabiting the world of Salman Rushdie - the "British

Dante" - and the IRA.

Burgess's view of the century in its twilight is bleak: "The Christian West was rotten to the core./ A culture facing in its deliquescence/The rigour of a million stars and crescents." The notion of a European federation, the rise of Islam, the murder of art - the Rushdie affair troubled him greatly - seem here to mount in a terrible tide of barbarity, from which the blind leap of faith offers, in the end, the only escape. Flesh and spirit finally and painfully shake hands for Burgess, who bows before the miracle of life and continuation: "God rendered himself complete/ Through filiality."

Byrne, the bad father, battles God, the good, and in the acceptance that God, not man, is the procreative force, living on through fleshly cycles of death and renewal - brings some kind of peace. "Let the logician and the Godman show/ The foolishness, but let the word be spoken." Tim's epitaph could be Burgess's own: "Smiling... somewhat sad, too./ Blessing the filthy world. Somebody had to."

Things rank and gross

In recent years child abuse, with its repercussions, has regularly made its way from the pages of newspapers to those of novels, especially those by women. Tania Glyde adds her voice with *Clever Girl*. This first novel is not for the faint-hearted. Its startling bleakness and violence are heightened rather than alleviated by her dark humour.

Sarah Cleyton, the novel's narrator, is an unusually tall and clever 13-year-old, with few friends, no dress sense and a liking - for Margaret Thatcher, astronomy and sculpture. The man "who had sorted through me as if I were no more than a bag of dirty laundry" casts his shadow, but proves only the first of many. She is coerced into losing her virginity to a pupil at the local boys' public school, a smooth misogynist who proceeds to deride her as much for her contemptible middle-classness as for her sexual availability. After she is gang-raped by her seducer and his friends, she realises by attacking and maiming another schoolboy. The passive receptacle of violence becomes its perpetrator.

University provides opportunities for reinvention and further forays into masochism. To her rescue comes Gabriel, who seems content to look after her without requiring sex, where, for Sarah, desire and terror coincide. The two set up home together

Kate Hubbard

CLEVER GIRL

By Tania Glyde
Picador, £9.99

in London. The contempt which fuels *Clever Girl* is chiefly directed against public school-educated men, women similarly cocooned by privilege and journalists. Sarah encounters the latter in her first job, on *The Skip*, a newspaper staffed by freaks and sadists.

At this point the novel slides into surreal horror. What is the explanation for the scratches and bloodied nails of Sarah's colleagues? By now Gabriel has abandoned his protector's mantle and subjects her to a barrage of criticism and scorn. As her sense of self dissolves, so her body decays, with skin flaking and discharge seeping from every orifice. Her illumination reaches its apogee after a night out with a university admirer turned journalist, who defecates onto her dress and leaves her with the paring shot: "Have you ever considered taking a car to serve yourself up to the sharks. Yourself they won't eat you if you taste the way you did last night." Understandably Sarah attempts suicide, only to be reincarnated, in the novel's final section, as a glossy robot-version of her former self, impervious to physical pain and bent on revenge.

It would be hard to find, within one slim novel, a more unpleasant collection of characters. The sheer nastiness of these grotesque caricatures, coupled with the novel's surrealism, merely create in the reader a sense of disassociation and alienation from the narrative. Outrage is recorded but not provoked. Glyde can certainly write compellingly and she has a sharp eye for the memorable image. But a novel containing so little of humanity elicits little sympathy.

A butterfly who stings like a bee

Bernard Levin penetrates the carapace of bombast in Vidal's memoirs to find a man wounded by tragic loss



Gore Vidal at home in Rome (1976), by his Canadian neighbour Roloff Beny: one of many excellent portraits in Beny's posthumous volume *People: Legends in Life and Art*, presented by Mitchell Crites (Thames & Hudson, £32)

The reader immediately comes up against the immovable object. Gore Vidal has written his memoirs (at immense length), and the very first words of the book cordially invite the reader to disbelieve some, much or all that Vidal has written. He does not help us in this quest by, say, inserting different coloured labels or other symbols to guide our paths, and we go in permanent fear of getting it hopelessly wrong, while Vidal laughs in the wings.

First mistake: Vidal does not frequent the wings - centre stage is where he is invariably to be found.

But what does he do there? For instance, he claims to have known Garbo well. He claims to have seen Eleanor Roosevelt naked. He claims to have been, as a boy, in Britain when war broke out, and he claims that not only was he on the *Antonia* when she sailed from Liverpool to the United States - he even claims to have seen the *Athena* torpedoed, the first hostile action of the Second World War.

Well, he could have known Garbo; he says - and it is quite possible - that he walked into the wrong bathroom when the President's wife was at her ablutions: there were certainly small boys on the *Antonia*; we are almost convinced, when he comes from years ago, and it comes from his first (and surely last) true love.

Jimmy Trimble and Vidal were coevals at 17. Love at that age is almost always fickle, but this love wasn't. "He had pale blue eyes; mine were pale brown. He had the hunter-athlete's farsightedness; I had the writer-reader's myopic vision. I was blond, with straight hair. He was blond, with curly hair. His sweat smelled of honey, like that of Alexander the Great."

Never mind Alexander the Great and the honey: both Jimmy and Vidal went to the war, but only Vidal came back. And apart from those ephemeral blow-jobs and such, he has been faithful to one man, with whom he lives an entirely asexual life; this is Howard Austen, and their partnership has endured for

nearly half a century. The more Vidal tries to tell us that he is a *flâneur*, the more real and thorough is his work and his life. After all, it was he who wrote *The City and the Pillars*, the first serious American homosexual novel. No "respectable" paper would review it, least of all *The New York Times*, and it was indeed virtually banned, together with its author. But the author was Gore Vidal, remember: he fished out some stories he had written many years ago, gave them a new name, and watched as the banned author happily fed the enemy.

Again, the more Vidal struggles to be thought a butterfly, the more the evidence piles up showing that he is not. Apart from a volume of short stories and two plays which were successful on Broadway, together with a quantity of film writing, he has written 15 novels, which include a remarkable series bringing the United States from its beginning to the present.

So how does the butterfly find the time to entertain the vast throngs of visitors who pass through his three homes? For the Sitwells, Forsters, Kennedys, Trillings, Kennedys and many others with views of their own, are very unlikely to fall silent even when their host enters the room.

But perhaps this passage about his school days (he was then 14), will give a clue: "At first, teachers used to ask me why I wasn't a football player like my father... One reason I didn't like football was the boredom of putting on and taking off all that gear... I'd learned, very early, how to transmit, in an interesting way, sufficient knowledge and imagination to charm those I wanted to charm... I was never shy, and if I was misunderstood, it was because I was modelling myself on Mickey Rooney, and so played many parts, including my favourite, that of paramount leader. Wherever I was, I always formed a gang, and I was boss."

P.S. The index disgraces the book, the publishers, the author and literature itself.

mentary happiness; through-out his book, we find him warm and generous among the poisoned arrows he also flings.

Cynics will say it is only more of his posing, but even a few paragraphs will show that Vidal is not entirely the elephant-skinned figure that his detractors say he is. The pain comes from years ago, and it comes from his first (and surely last) true love.

Jimmy Trimble and Vidal were coevals at 17. Love at that age is almost always fickle, but this love wasn't. "He had pale blue eyes; mine were pale brown. He had the hunter-athlete's farsightedness; I had the writer-reader's myopic vision. I was blond, with straight hair. He was blond, with curly hair. His sweat smelled of honey, like that of Alexander the Great."

Never mind Alexander the Great and the honey: both Jimmy and Vidal went to the war, but only Vidal came back. And apart from those ephemeral blow-jobs and such, he has been faithful to one man, with whom he lives an entirely asexual life; this is Howard Austen, and their partnership has endured for

like maternal traditionalism, well, we're done for. If not even women respect what women do well, what hope is there?

Yet if anyone asked Freely which she would rather give up, the books she has written or her children, I suspect there would be no contest. The work is nothing compared to the children.

Mothers, on the whole, like being mothers a great deal. For many, it is by far the best thing about being female. Even mothers who complain bitterly, like Freely, often go on

to have more children even when they have no money: not because of some insane breeding urge, but because they enjoy the children and enjoy loving the children and being loved by them and amused by them, and because they make them wildly happy for much of the time. Yes, wildly happy. Not fulfilled in a bovine way, but wildly happy. Sometimes mothers have to give up a great deal in order to go on having the daily epiphanies of motherhood, but they do it. They juggle and cajole and lie about meetings if they work because it's all worth it, every second of it, and it's much, much nicer being a woman and mother than the cold, long road of being a man.

Freely even apologises for having a nanny, because she is oppressing another woman by having her look after her children. No wonder conservatives deride single mothers: after all, they are just looking after children, and even feminists despise that. Freely's practical suggestions for easing the lot of women, by the way, include making the school day longer, which would be hard on young children.

Sally Emerson's novels include *Second Sight* and *Separation* (Abacus).



Maureen Freely: muddled

Cannae beat 'em

Albert Read

HANNIBAL

By Ross Leckie
Canongate, £14.99

THE ROMANS were a thorough lot: not only did they destroy Carthage; they also destroyed its reputation. The classical sources for this period are scant, and most are sympathetic to the Romans. In Ross Leckie's mock autobiography, Hannibal, the eponymous hero, tries to put the record straight. Rome is the villain here, trying to pen in Carthage, which must trade to survive. His father, Hamilcar, who returns defeated from the first Punic War, takes young Hannibal up to the walls of Carthage and instils in him a lifelong desire for vengeance.

Ravaged by defeat and unruly mercenaries, the Barca clan move to Spain and found Cartagena. After the death of his father, Hannibal assumes command and, at the age of 27, leads 90,000 men over the Alps to Rome. The book is full of wonderful scenes: cosmopolitan, chaotic Carthage - an ancient incarnation of New York - heaving with people from all corners of Africa; elephants perched precariously on rafts, crossing the Straits of Gibraltar; the happy camp at Cartagena preparing for the long journey to Rome. Leckie lights up this world for us with

fabulous energy and attention to detail.

But where does historical research give way to imagination? Rather more than Robert Graves and Allan Massie, Leckie is left to make his own conjectures - some, no doubt, designed to raise academic hackles. (Would Hannibal have studied Plato? Would he have been familiar with Alexander's Ephemerides?)

Care and restraint are called for at every turn, and Leckie obliges. The worst that can be said of him is that he occasionally succumbs to Hollywood melodrama, and Hannibal's noble warrior purity, his unwavering devotion to his men and his wife begin to grate after a time. In general, however, Leckie avoids sentimentality: he combines authority with accessibility. What was once old history with echoes of adventure becomes full-bodied adventure with echoes of history.

Mum's the word for the best job of all

Sally Emerson

WHAT ABOUT US?

An Open Letter to the Mothers Feminist Forgo
By Maureen Freely
Bloomsbury, £15.99

no alternatives herself. Camille Paglia is scorned for saying "Feminism was always wrong to pretend that women could have it all. It is not male society but mother nature who lays the heaviest burden on women." Freely's odd response is: "Thanks a billion, Camille. I appreciate your concern. I do not think, therefore I am a mother, eh?"

Much of the book is devoted to an honest, and engaging, account of Maureen Freely's life and her hardships as a mother and writer in America and England. Much of this is intentionally funny, and some of it unintentionally so, particularly as the feminist Freely has quite clearly found trouble

living up to feminism. She spends too much money on clothes, nabs another woman's husband partly because she likes the cosy sense of his family life going on as he talks on the phone in his kitchen, gets pregnant on purpose without even informing the father of her intention. It is pretty clear that very little, let alone feminism, could have saved Freely from her years of muddle and chaos.

Amazingly, she never proclaims that the mothering of these four children she's been doing for so many years, at such inconvenience, gives her pleasure. Like so many die-hard feminists, she describes the children only in terms of the trouble they cause. Of course mothers look like second-class citizens, unworthy of anything but narrow doors and high kerbs, if what they do is described even by them as without interest, if the creatures they look after are apparently of no importance, if there is no joy. If any pleasure in children has some dire name

Sally Emerson's novels include *Second Sight* and *Separation* (Abacus).

Pakistan challenge for England A Emburey sets out positive goals for touring party

By PAT GIBSON

IF THE stories are to be believed, Pakistan is the last place that England should be sending its best young cricketers to further their education. With ball tampering, drug taking and attempted bribery among the allegations levelled at that country's cricketers in recent times, the English players could be tainted for life.

Looked at another way, however, there is no better place to go. Pakistan offers arguably the most demanding cricket environment in the world and the 15 members of the England A team who leave Garwick for Karachi today should return in two months' time wiser and better players.

The business part of the tour involves two warm-up games, three four-day matches, three "Tests" and three one-day internationals, but John Emburey's first priority as cricket manager was to dispel any negative thoughts about the country which may have been implanted in the players' minds by such leading authorities as Ian Botham.

The great all-rounder's mother-in-law would probably not like it very much but there is nothing for the cricketers to worry about, as Emburey was at pains to point out during the team's only pre-

tour get-together at Tewkesbury recently. "I wanted to talk to them about Pakistan as a country, about the culture and the people," he said. "It is different. They have a different outlook on life. We must understand things like that. It is important that we show English cricket in a good light, both in the way we play the game and the way we conduct ourselves off the field."

Bearing in mind the recent cricketing relationship between the two countries, it is an impressive start by Emburey on his first venture into team management prior to taking up his first full-time

DETAILS

TOUR PARTY: N Hussain (Essex, captain), J Gubbins (Lancashire), E Gidder (Sussex), D Headley (Kent), R Ikin (Essex), N Knight (Northamptonshire), A McGrath (Nottinghamshire), D O'Sullivan (Worcestershire), K Pons (Warwickshire), J Pooley (Middlesex), I Salisbury (Sussex), M Smith (Gloucestershire), S Stamp (Yorkshire), S Udal (Hampshire), C White (Yorkshire).
Tour manager: M Vickers. Cricket manager: J Emburey. Physiotherapist: D Conway.
EXCURSIONS: Nov 1: Pakistan Cricket Board (Karachi), 2: PCB (Mumbai), 3: Confirmed 10 (Karachi), 11-14: PCB (Karachi), 15-17: First Test (Karachi), 18-20: Pakistan XI (Karachi), 21-23: Second Test (Karachi), 24-27: Pakistan XI (Karachi), 28-30: Dec 4: Second Test (Karachi), 5-12: Third Test (Karachi), 13-15: First one-day international (Karachi), 16: Second one-day international (Karachi), 17: Third one-day international (Karachi), 18: Third one-day international (Karachi), 19: Third one-day international (Karachi), 20: Third one-day international (Karachi), 21: Third one-day international (Karachi), 22: Third one-day international (Karachi), 23: Third one-day international (Karachi), 24: Third one-day international (Karachi), 25: Third one-day international (Karachi), 26: Third one-day international (Karachi), 27: Third one-day international (Karachi), 28: Third one-day international (Karachi), 29: Third one-day international (Karachi), 30: Third one-day international (Karachi).

appointment with Northamptonshire next season. It is a significant one, too, since his performance will be monitored as closely at Lord's as that of any of his charges.

"I am ambitious," he readily acknowledged, "and this is something I have always wanted to do. Someone like me, who has been around for such a long time in both Test and county cricket, should have the respect of the players and I think I can help them to develop their game."

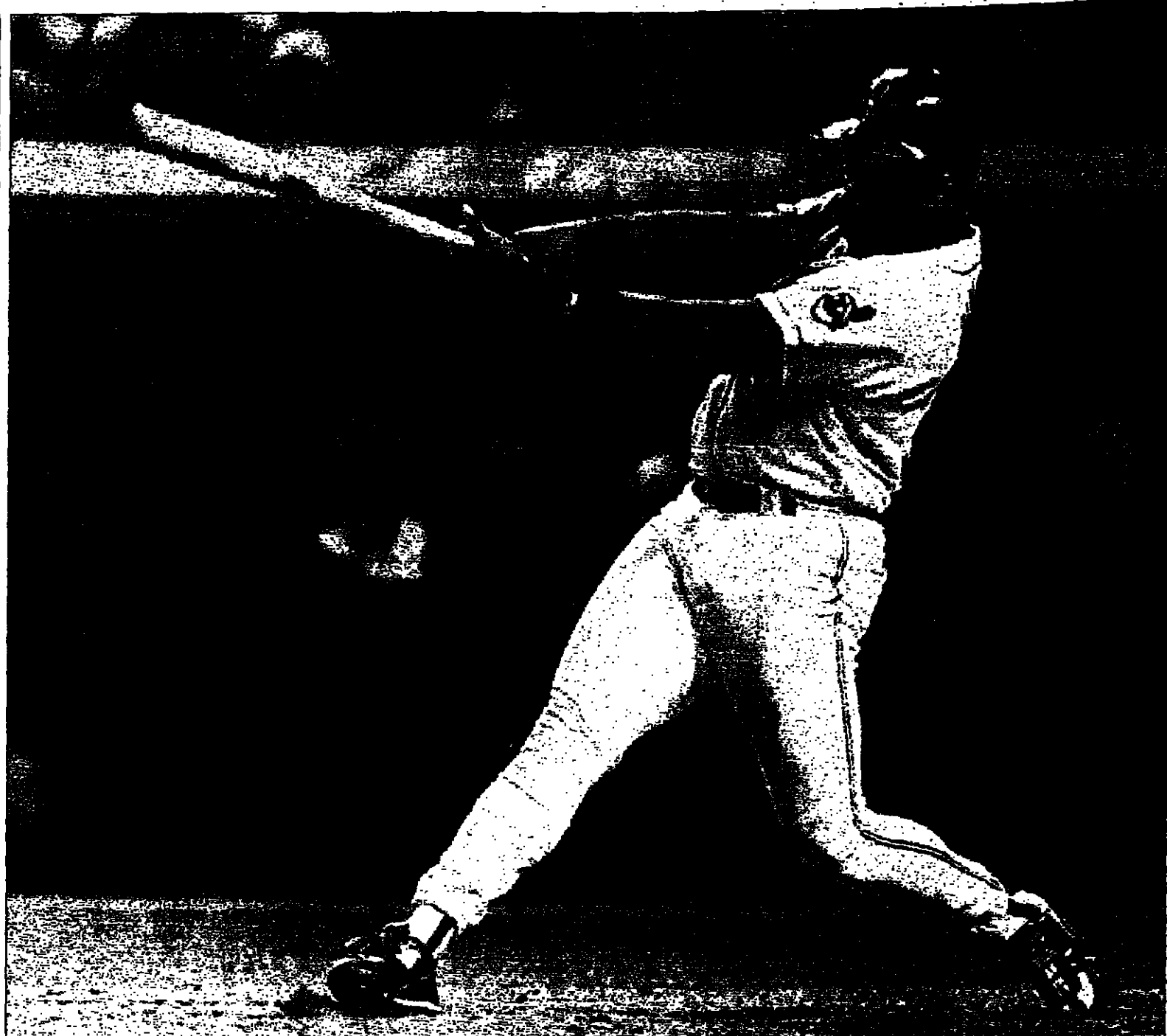
That, of course, is the purpose of these A tours, the success of which can be judged from the fact that more than half of the England players in South Africa, the captain included, have been on one or more of the previous six such expeditions.

This one offers opportunities to relatively senior players looking to re-establish themselves in Test cricket, such as Nasser Hussain, an interesting choice as captain. Ian Salisbury, Craig White and Shaun Udal, recognised talents such as Nick Knight and Jason Gallian, who won their first caps last summer, and emerging youngsters, including Jason Pooley and Dean Headley, replacements for Andrew Symonds and Peter Martin respectively.

At one end of the scale is Hussain, who admits that he became disillusioned at his treatment by the selectors and reacted badly, but reassured himself with almost 1,700 runs for Essex last season. The responsibility of leading the side could have the same effect on him as the vice-captaincy did on Mark Ramprakash in India last winter.

At the other end is Andrew McGrath, a gifted young opening batsman who has been preferred to his more experienced Yorkshire colleague, Michael Vaughan, on the strength of his performances for the England Under-19 team. He gets an immediate chance to show he can succeed at a higher level.

The quality of the opposition is a mystery at this stage because most of Pakistan's top players have just left on a tour of Australia, but Emburey said: "You can bet your bottom dollar that whoever is picked to represent Pakistan will be a good player. It is going to be an intriguing series."



Murray strikes the winning run for Cleveland in game three of the World Series but the Indians still trail 2-1. Photograph: Mike Blake

Cleveland breathe new life into series

FROM KEITH BLACKMORE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

FOR THE third time in as many games, an episode of baseball's World Series was settled by a single run here on Tuesday night, but for the first time the decisive score came from the Cleveland Indians. It took them 11 innings, two more than usual, to find it, but Eddie Murray's single kept the series alive.

Had the Atlanta Braves won, as they several times threatened to do, they would have led the best-of-seven series 3-0 and no team in the 91-year history of the event has failed to win from there. Instead, the score is 2-1 and, with the next two games both at home, the Indians can live in hope.

The comforts of home should not be underestimated. The extra-innings drama of Tuesday was the first World

Series game to be played in Cleveland since 1954 and, more importantly, it was the first ever series game in the gleaming new Jacobs Field stadium.

Known locally as The Jake, the stadium opened in April 1994 and, thanks to the success of the Indians, has been sold out virtually every game since. It is a typical modern stadium, built at a cost of \$169 million, with every modern convenience but designed to look like something from the past. Like Camden Yards in Baltimore and other new arenas in Arlington and Denver, The Jake evokes memories of classic ballparks, like Ebbets Field, once the home of the Brooklyn Dodgers and long since lost to the bulldozer.

The stadium has, however, provided the Indians with more than just money and nostalgia as the team has won 54 of its 72 home games. If that were not enough, there was an extra home advantage on Tuesday, the weather. Only in the series of 1983, which had been delayed by an

even the Fall Classic, and frozen fingers certainly played their part.

Before the game started, Sam Danza, a pensioner, was given the chance to win \$1 million. Danza, 73, had won the opportunity in a sweepstakes and all he had to do was throw a baseball from the pitcher's mound into a net roughly the size of the strike zone. His pitch fell agonisingly short and he had to make do with a consolation prize of \$50,000. However, for a long time, it was the nearest any pitcher came to putting the ball on the money.

Hits were sprinkled all over the place. The Braves took the lead, fell 4-1 behind, closed to 4-3 with solo home runs by Fred McGriff and Ryan Klesko, then moved ahead.

5-4, in a dramatic seventh inning. It seemed the Indians might capitulate but instead they drew level when Kenny Lofton scored on Carlos Baerga's infield single.

Lofton deserved the glory of sending the game into extra innings. It was his night and, so far for Cleveland, it has been his series. Six times he came up to bat, on Tuesday and six times he reached first base. He got three hits, three walks, three runs and a stolen base, his fifth of the series. "This is an all-in-nothing situation for me," Lofton said. "That's the way I'm playing."

It fell to another, however, to finish the job. Murray, a veteran of the 1979 and 1983 World Series with the Baltimore Orioles, homered in game two but had done little since. His single at the bottom of the eleventh brought home Alvaro Espinoza, a pinch runner, to win the game.

Team	Inning	Score	Runs	Hits	Errors
Atlanta	1	0 0 0 0 1 1 3 0 0 0	6	12	1
Cleveland	2	0 2 0 0 0 1 1 0 0 1	7	12	2

Middlesex prepare to stand in way of move

By SIMON WILDE

AN UNSEEMLY squabble has developed over the playing future of John Emburey, who leaves today for Pakistan to act as cricket manager of the England A team. Emburey intended to announce formally his plans for next year before departing, but that has been prevented by the intransigence of the county with whom he has spent 22 years in the game, Middlesex.

It is widely accepted in cricket circles that Emburey, who wants to develop a career as a coach-cum-manager, played his final match for Middlesex at Taunton five weeks ago. Seemingly, the only people who do not accept the fact are the members of the Middlesex committee, who last month offered him a new two-year playing contract.

It is equally clear that Emburey is going to join Northamptonshire, who have won a race among several counties to acquire the services of the former England off-spinner. The indications are, however, that Middlesex will contest Emburey's decision to move. If a Test and County Cricket Board tribunal upholds their case, Emburey would be deemed a "list one" player, preventing him from taking the field for his new club as counties can sign only two list one players in any five-year period.

"I know which county I will be coaching next season but I don't know if I will be playing for them," Emburey, 43, said yesterday. He is ready to take whatever legal measures are necessary to win his case.

World champion continues relentless pursuit of glory

Michael Schumacher lost his service game in a celebrity tennis match yesterday. It is about the only thing that has gone wrong for him all week. He even managed to complete the trip from the city centre to the tennis venue out by Tokyo Bay in 15 minutes, a feat that equals his mastery of traffic in this season's Formula One grands prix.

Schumacher won in the end, of course. It is difficult to imagine him losing at anything. He is supposed to be relaxing here after clinching his second successive world drivers' championship at Aida on Sunday, but he is not ready to rest yet. The title may be won, but for him, the job is only half done. He is far from fulfilled and there is Damon Hill to deal with.

Before he went out on to the court to hit balls into an over-excited crowd of invited guests, Schumacher sat in a quiet ante-room at the Ariake Coliseum, the picture of self-assurance. He is confident of his psychological dominance over his closest rival, ready to cut the ties with Benetton that have brought him so much success and embrace an uncertain future with Ferrari.

"There are no regrets about leaving Benetton despite the great times we have had," Schumacher said. "You think of all the good times you had and how difficult it was to make this decision, but I do not feel regret. I knew when I took this decision what I had done and I feel even more sure now because I have finished the job or at least the first part. Now, I can look for the challenge I need."

But first, the unfinished business. He felt flat, he said, when he won the championship last weekend because,



Oliver Holt, in Tokyo, finds Michael Schumacher set on imposing himself even further

from the outset, his goal this season has been to win the constructors' championship, too, and although Benetton are 21 points ahead of Williams, the title is not yet safe.

Then, there is Nigel Mansell's record of nine race wins in one season. The German has won eight already and two are left. "I was quite surprised how little I was affected on Sunday," he said. "I got a bigger thrill out of winning races like Hockenheim and the Nürburgring. The target from the beginning has been the constructors' championship as well and therefore I don't feel I have fulfilled my target. Race wins are more important to me anyway because you are always judged by your last race. I want to enjoy myself in the last two

races, but I enjoy myself by winning and that is why I want Nigel's record."

Whatever that future holds, though, Schumacher is sure he has forced Hill into a downward mental spiral from which it will be hard for the Englishman to break out. "It is the case when you win any success," he said. "Once you get into this horrible situation, anything you do seems to go wrong."

"I feel very confident when I am racing against him now. I had a tricky situation with him on the back straight at Aida, one of the moments I was concerned about, and I did not know what he was going to do. It was a bit strange the way he was driving."

ON SATURDAY

In the Magazine, Germany's sporting heroes



Schumacher plays a typically precise forehand in Tokyo

"In the end, I thought there was no reason to risk anything by overtaking him. I thought, 'okay, we are going to do the pit stop and I'm going to get you'. I knew we had a particularly prepared strategy for the situation. It worked out. I was free and I was gone."

"I think Damon misses his focus. He doesn't know what he is doing or wants to do. At the start, he was concentrating too much on me. I would have done exactly the same, but I would not have let the Ferrari through. It should have been easy for him to avoid that."

Schumacher dismissed Hill's claim that he had been guilty of "total hypocrisy" when he complained privately about the Englishman's driving tactics during Sunday's decisive Pacific Grand Prix and said he was upset that Hill had chosen to stoke up talk of the feud between the protagonists when their quarrel could have been sorted out in private.

"I was very surprised by Damon's reaction at Aida," Schumacher said. "If I had had a strong point, I would have spoken officially about it, but because I was not 100 per cent sure what had gone on during the race, I wanted to speak to him and I wanted him to know about it. You saw how he reacted. There was no reason to build up the idea of a feud again."

"In fact, when I saw the race on video, what he did looked much more harmless. I was never upset about it anyway and I never complained. I just asked him about it. So the whole thing has been blown up again completely unnecessarily and he is the one who is always saying we should talk to each other in private first. That's what I tried to do and look what happened."



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This refresher is again about counting the distribution. Look just at the North-South cards.

Dealer North	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ A 5 4 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ A K 4 ♣ K 10 8 3	♠ 9 3 ♥ J 10 8 5 ♦ J 8 ♣ J 9 6 5 2	♠ 7 ♥ A K 9 7 5 4 ♦ 6 3 ♣ A Q 7 4

W	N	E	S
—	1 NT (15-17)	Pass	3♥
4♠	Pass	Pass	5♣
All Pass	6♠	Pass	6♣

Contract: Six hearts by South. Lead: King of Spades

South should have passed. Six Clubs — North might easily have had a hand on which South could have established his hearts by ruffing.

Declarer won the spade in dummy and played queen and ace of hearts. Now he continued with a diamond to the king and a spade ruff, and cashed a third high heart. He then played the ace of clubs, noting that West showed out. He then led a diamond to the ace and ruffed a diamond, noting East's failure to follow.

What would a good player do now? The answer is count East's distribution. He has shown up with two spades,

four hearts, two diamonds (remember, he showed out on the third round of the suit) and five clubs (East had none). That isn't difficult, provided you have watched what happened on the first few tricks, but I am acutely aware that is a very big proviso.

Now all that remains is to make use of this information — declarer plays his last (losing) heart. East wins and, since he has nothing but clubs left, has to lead that suit to give South his 12th trick.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BARDPERSONS

HUME
a. A fairy
b. A crooked priest
c. A Scottish lawyer

RAMBURES

a. A French braggart
b. A magician
c. An Egyptian servant

BIANCA

a. A spirited girl
b. A singer
c. A merry wife

SAMPSON

a. A professional wrestler
b. A lazy inn-keeper
c. A quarrelsome servant

Answers on page 45



KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Marshall's plan

Before the recent world championship contest between Garry Kasparov and Viswanath Anand, the last world title match to be held exclusively on American soil was that of 1907.

The challenger, dashing American Grandmaster Frank Marshall, was adept at tactics but deficient in the area of strategic build-up. When he came to challenge Lasker, Marshall lost heavily, failing to score a single win.

Paradoxically, Marshall's most enduring monument was his introduction of a sharp gambit in the Ruy Lopez against Capablanca. Although Marshall lost, his gambit has survived to become one of the most popular variations amongst aggressive players of the present day.

White: Jose Capablanca

Black: Frank Marshall
New York 1918

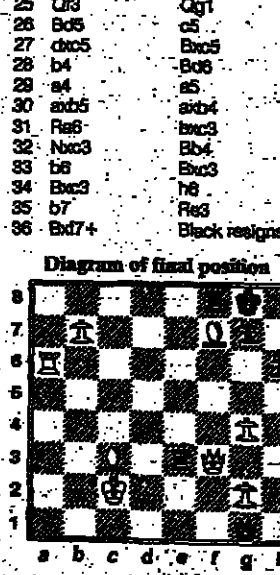
Ruy Lopez	
1 e4	e5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 Bb5	a6
4 Ba4	Nb8
5 O-O	Be7
6 Re1	b5
7 Bc3	O-O
8 c3	d5
9 exd5	Nc6
10 Nbd5	Nb6
11 Re5	Nb8
12 Re1	Bd7
13 h3	Np4
14 Qc3	Qh4
15 Q4	Nc2
16 Re2	Bp4
17 Ng4	Bb2+

18 Kf1
19 Re2
20 Ne2
21 Bc2
22 Qh3
23 Kd3
24 Kc2
25 Qh3
26 Bc6
27 dxc5
28 b4
29 a4
30 a5b6
31 Re3
32 Ne3
33 Bb3
34 Bc2
35 b7
36 Bb7+

Bc3
Qh1+
Bc2
Bb4
Ree3+
Qh1+
Bc2
Qh1
c5
Bc5
Bc6
a5
a5b4
bxc3
Bb4
Bc3
h6
Re3
Bb7+

Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Times world championship book

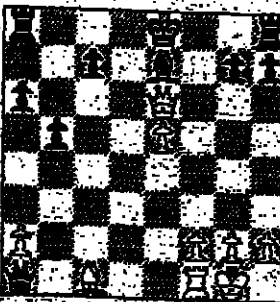
All games of the world title match are now available, with commentary by Raymond Keene in a Times book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Bantam £9.99). Credit card orders on (0176 327901) please quote 5/655.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Kasparov, Anand, Intel World Championship, Game 10 1995. How can White make decisive material gains by exploiting the unco-ordinated nature of the black forces?



Solution on page 45

Reading may protest after rivals' criticism decision to abandon cup-tie

Bitter Bury rue missed opportunity

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

READING needed assistance from above, when they trailed 2-0 after only 28 minutes of their Coca-Cola Cup third-round tie against Bury on Tuesday night, and they got it. The heavens opened, flooded the Elm Park pitch and forced John Kirkby, the referee, to abandon the match.

Cue protests from the Bury supporters, players and managers, who felt that the conditions were still more suitable for football than water polo. Their Reading counterparts, not surprisingly, begged to differ and said a silent prayer of collective thanks to the rain gods.

Phil Stant, the Bury and former Reading striker, was furious. He had scored the first goal after five minutes — Tony Rigby added the second ten minutes later — and claimed that the Reading players had unduly influenced Kirkby in his final decision. "I wonder whether it would have been called off if Reading were winning 2-0," he said.

Stan Ternant, the Bury manager, was equally perplexed. "It was ridiculous," he said. "When the referee stopped it, the conditions were no worse than they were at the beginning." Yet Kirkby, from Sheffield, believed that he made the correct choice. "The conditions were farcical," he said. "It was becoming a lottery and some of the touchlines were being completely washed away."

As the storm rumbled on, off the pitch, Reading officials were yesterday considering making a complaint to the Football Association over Stant's claims that they had "cheated" in getting the game called off.

"I can assure everyone that there are no cheats at this club," Jimmy Quinn, Reading's joint player-manager, said. "It is totally out of order to suggest otherwise. The referee is the only man who can



Keown rises high above a struggling Barnsley defence to head home Arsenal's third goal in their win at Oakwell. Photograph: John Sibley

call the game off and we had no bearing on his decision. "I thought he was right. You couldn't pass the ball ten yards without it getting stuck in the water and there was also a danger of players sliding off the pitch into the advertising hoardings."

Adrian Williams, the Reading captain, said: "I don't think anyone, hand on their heart, could say it was the wrong decision. I sympathise with Bury, but I don't think we'd have been 2-0 down in

normal conditions." The 8,034 spectators will be given half-price admission when the game is restarted on November 7.

Wild weather swept most of the country on Tuesday, but the other four Coca-Cola Cup ties were completed without mishap. Blackburn Rovers, the FA Carling Premiership champions, produced another unconvincing display but still beat Watford 2-1 at Vicarage Road.

After Kevin Phillips had given Watford a 43rd-minute lead, taking advantage of an error by Ian Pearce, goals from Alan Shearer — his fourteenth of the season — and Mike Newell settled the issue. Newell's header 11 minutes from time proved a point he has been trying to make for months.

"All I have ever asked for is a fair crack of the whip," he said — a reference to his lack of a regular run in the side. "I felt it was unfair that I didn't get back in after losing my

place through injury last season. I just want to be treated fairly."

Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, may need no more convincing. "I thought Mike was excellent, both in his movement off the ball and on it," he said.

Arsenal's impressive form continued when they overcame the potentially awkward hurdle of an away match at Barnsley with consummate ease. They won 3-0 — their ninth victory in 13 outings this

season — with goals from Steve Bould, Dennis Bergkamp and Martin Keown. Tranmere Rovers earned a replay after drawing 1-1 at Birmingham City, with Ian Moore equalising 15 minutes from the end after John McGreal had put through his own net after just 80 seconds to give the home side the lead, while Bolton Wanderers and Leicester City will also need a second attempt to resolve their differences. They drew 0-0 at Burnden Park.

Rangers fail to overcome injury crisis

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THEY may have the biggest, most expensive and most cosmopolitan squad in Scottish football, but Rangers discovered on Tuesday night that even their fame and fortune cannot guarantee success. An injury crisis at Ibrox was, according to Walter Smith, their manager, no excuse for the way his side slipped to a 2-1 defeat against Aberdeen in their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final at Hampden Park. Rangers should, he felt, have been capable of overcoming any such handicap.

"We've been disjointed for most of the season," Smith said. "I think some people are looking at the way we are playing and taking comfort in the injuries, but when you have a squad like we do, then they should be capable of winning games like the semi-final. The squad against Aberdeen was capable of far better than they showed."

Thus were injuries to Richard Gough, Brian Laudrup, Charlie Miller, Stuart McCall, Ian Ferguson, David Robertson and Trevor Steven dismissed as an excuse for losing to Aberdeen. In their stead, the reserve team coach, John Brown, 33, was handed his first start of the season, although there was still around £10 million-worth of talent in the side, including Paul Gascoigne, Oleg Salenko, Stephen Wright and Gordon Strachan.

On the night, however, it was Aberdeen's Billy Dodds and Eoin Jess who took the honours. Dodds scored both his side's goals, while Jess dictated affairs from midfield. They went ahead after 52 minutes, Jess playing a probing pass for Dodds to burst into the area and beat Goran in the Rangers goal from a narrow angle. Fifteen minutes later, Dodds, unmarked, met Glass's deep cross from the left with a firm header to make it 2-0. When Salenko finally replied for Rangers, it was too little, too late.

"We didn't do enough in the first hour or more to punish Aberdeen," Smith lamented afterwards. "After Aberdeen scored, they were by far the better side and we didn't do nearly enough to win the game."

Another worry for the Rangers manager is Gascoigne's simmering temper. Booked for raising an arm to Dodds after 37 minutes, he has been booked four times in eight domestic appearances, as well as once in two European Cup Champions' League ties. Two more yellow cards will exceed

the Scottish Football Association's 16-point threshold and result in a one-match ban.

There appear to be no such worries for Aberdeen, who, if they repeat their successful semi-final result in the final on November 26, would win their first trophy for five years — an extraordinary turnaround for a club that was flirting with relegation less than six months ago. A play-off averted that calamity and Roy Aitken, appointed as manager in February and quickly the subject of supporters' displeasure, is now a hugely-popular figure at Pittodrie.

"You have to give Roy Aitken a lot of credit," Neil McDougall, the chairman of the Association of Aberdeen Supporters' Clubs, said. "When Willie Miller went last season a lot of people felt Roy, as his assistant, should have gone too, but he clearly has the players responding to him, while I feel Tommy Craig, who came in during the sum-



Jess: impressive

mer, has the side playing a lot of good football now."

None more so than Jess. "I think his performance in midfield was magnificent and a big factor," McDougall said. "He was up against Paul Gascoigne, yet you left Hampden wondering who the £4.3 million player was."

"That was beamed round Britain on television, Bolton have been showing an interest and no doubt there will be other offers for him, but I hope we can hang on to him."

McDougall added: "It is only the second time in the nineties we've gone to Glasgow and beaten Rangers and that is bound to give the players more belief in themselves. We won't take anything for granted for the final with Celtic having lost to Raith last season, but Aberdeen will be favourites."

Red cards bring ugly hue to home of the beautiful game

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRAZIL, more noted for its love of the beautiful game, provides frequent reminders of football's uglier element too. No better was that illustrated than on Tuesday, when the South American Super Cup match between Cruzeiro and São Paulo was abandoned early in the second half after Cruzeiro ran out of the minimum number of players — seven — needed to continue.

São Paulo led 1-0 in the quarter-final first-leg tie, when little short of all-out warfare erupted after

Rogério, the Cruzeiro defender, kicked an opponent and was dismissed. His colleagues surrounded the referee — a fast-diminishing species in South American football. He stood his ground, rather bravely, and issued three more red cards. Cruzeiro's chances of victory were now slim, but with São Paulo sensing a landslide, Luis Fernando Gomes pulled up suddenly with a calf injury.

The team doctor, not surprisingly, deemed he was unfit to continue and, with Cruzeiro already having used their three substitutes, the

game was abandoned. So much for the beautiful game. Luninho, who recently joined Middlesbrough, and left-back Roberto Carlos, of the Italian club Internazionale, have been included in the Brazil squad for next month's soccer friendly with Argentina.

The two were among seven foreign-based players named by Mario Zagallo for the game in Buenos Aires on November 8.

A French prosecutor yesterday asked an appeal court to jail the former Marseilles club president, Bernard Tapie, for rigging a match.

but called for the original prison sentence to be cut to four months. Tapie, a former cabinet minister and bankrupt business magnate, was sentenced last May to a year in jail, with another year suspended, for bribing players of the rival Valenciennes team to lose a 1993 league game to Marseille.

Dino Zoff, the former Italy captain who is now chairman of Lazio, has been questioned by a magistrate as part of an inquiry into suspected sales tax evasion at the Serie A club. Magistrate Davide Jori heard Zoff, accompanied by his lawyer,

give evidence as a material witness in the investigation into alleged unpaid VAT on advance ticket sales between 1991 and 1994.

Zoff, who took over in 1994, told the magistrate that some tax was not paid since he became chairman, but Lazio had asked the finance ministry to determine whether the sales involved were liable to tax.

The Bulgaria international, Hristo Stoichkov was banned for one match and fined £2,133 yesterday for diving in the penalty area during Parma's Serie A 1-1 draw with Roma on Sunday.

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Yamaha threaten Herbert's switch

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE CHANCES of Johnny Herbert joining the motor racing team that took Jackie Stewart to the Formula One world championship could run aground on the rocks of commercial reality. The Warwick-based driver has been linked with a possible move to Tyrrell Yamaha since learning he was to be dropped by Benetton at the end of the season.

Switching to the home of a former champion — Stewart won two of his three titles at Tyrrell — would be a consolation, despite the Woking-based team's lack of competitiveness this season. But Herbert's hopes could be dashed by the desire of the

engine supplier, Yamaha, to see a Japanese driver at the wheel. Mika Salo, of Finland, has already been retained for next year, leaving only the seat presently occupied by Ukyo Katayama, of Japan, to aim for.

"If we did not see any Japanese driver in Formula One, it would be very sad," Takaaki Kimura, Yamaha's project leader, said. "It is also good for the company, our workers and Japanese motor racing."

If he does make the switch, Herbert, who competed in one race for Tyrrell in his debut season, will be powered by one of the lightest engines ever developed for Formula One racing. The company have high hopes that their new V10

engine will help them achieve their most successful season since they arrived on the scene in 1989.

"Our target is to win Formula One," Kimura said. "But for the next couple of years, the realistic target is to get more points and get on the podium." Herbert is already known in Japan, having competed in the Formula 3000 series there in 1990, after his grand prix career had been interrupted by a serious accident. He is reported to have pitched his salary demands too high, while Katayama, who has had a disappointing season, can take much-needed sponsorship to the team.

Herbert, 31, has shown he is capable of winning races, his triumphs at Silverstone and

Monza, taking him to fifth place in the championship. He believes his future should be decided after the Japanese Grand Prix, the penultimate race of the season, which takes place on Sunday.

"After Suzuka, I should know exactly where I am going," said Herbert. "I want to stay in Formula One. IndyCar is for the future — it is not something I want to do at the moment."

"If I do stay in Formula One, it will be with a team who I believe will give me the chance to win races. If I feel the team are not giving the right signals, I won't go there. It may be more of a challenge for me being in a second-ranked team and trying to put them into the top rank."

Bruno stands ready to fight his corner

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

FRANK BRUNO, the World Boxing Council (WBC) heavyweight champion, is determined to contest any legal action aimed at preventing a multimillion pound match with Mike Tyson, who has been installed as the leading contender since his comeback contest after his release from prison.

A High Court writ has been issued by Bruno's British rival, Lennox Lewis, the former champion, whose camp insists he is the rightful opponent for Bruno's first title defence after beating Lionel Butler in a final eliminator — ordered by the WBC.

"As far as Frank Bruno is concerned, this will be fought very strongly," Bruno's promoter, Frank Warren, said yesterday. "Why they are issuing proceedings against Bruno is beyond me. Frank doesn't make me decisions — it is the World Boxing Council."

"All they are doing is spurring him on because we are

determined to make this fight [against Tyson]. I am wondering if a British court has jurisdiction over the WBC as they are registered in Puerto Rico."

The decisions that have brought this heavyweight row to a head were made at the WBC's last convention in Seville, nearly a year ago.

Not only did it order the Lewis-Butler eliminator, but it decreed that Tyson would move back to the No 1 position after his first warm-up fight. Lewis's solicitor, Bernard Clarke, issued proceedings against Bruno and the WBC in the attempt to prevent any U-turn at the next WBC convention in Chang Mai, Thailand, starting on November 6.

Warren, speaking on BBC Radio 5 Live, added: "I believe what was stated in Seville will happen. The WBC's position is very straight on this. In my time in boxing, being in the No 1 position means that you are the mandatory challenger."

Richards delivers cautionary tale

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

DEAN RICHARDS, the England No 8, yesterday warned that his country's five nations' championship prospects could suffer because of the new yellow card system. The British Isles player also had harsh words for Rob Andrew, his former England teammate, whom he accused of "poaching" players for his new club, Newcastle.

Richards will return to captain Leicester this weekend after becoming the first player to be banned under the new arrangement, by which players receive a suspension for two cautions, even if they are incurred in separate matches.

Speaking in London, where he was launching his autobiography, titled *Dean's Richards*, 30, said: "England might lose two or three players throughout the five nations, whereas the other countries have not put in place such a harsh system."

"Unfortunately referees have been told to penalise virtually everything, which is

totally outrageous. There is a stoppage about every 15 seconds in some matches."

Richards, who received a two-week ban, insisted: "There is no sour grapes on my part because I have served my suspension, but other players are on one yellow card and if they receive another, they will be liable to suspension."

Richards' England and Leicester teammate, Martin Johnson, is one prominent player walking the tightrope with one yellow card already in his name.

Only Wasps have been seriously affected so far by Andrew's Newcastle recruitment drive, but Leicester face a fight to keep Tony Underwood, their England wing, who has not made up his mind, yet.

Richards said: "We feel it is a pity that clubs are trying to poach our players and using money to get them, rather than the entertaining rugby that we are hoping to stage at Leicester."

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Local heroes provide the grandstand finish

Next Tuesday the Sports Council's jury of ten will deliver its verdict on the site of England's new national stadium. Way out in front is the favourite, Wembley, with a £168 million development plan that involves floating the pitch and the athletics track on a water-bed.

Others in the running are Birmingham, Bradford, Manchester and Sheffield. The competition is fierce, for they all reckon that, when it comes to revitalising an area, nothing does the trick better than a great new sports stadium.

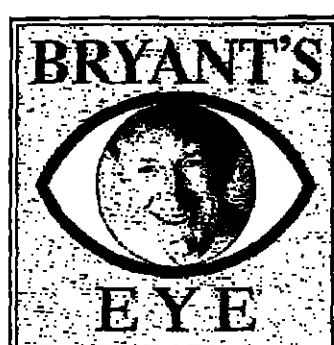
There is a brand new stadium to be found in the run-down dockland wilderness that lies on the east side of Middlesbrough. But it's not the 30,000-seat futuristic temple of sport that is producing the buzz in Middlesbrough — it is a 22-year-old diminutive South American called Juninho. The £4.7 million signing of the Brazilian player of the year from São Paulo earlier this month is reckoned by some to be the biggest transfer coup in the history of English football. Brazil shirts, coffee beans, sombreros (well, Mexico's not that far from Brazil) and, above all, season tickets are selling as never before and the whole town seems infected with

'He needs around him people who can grab the imagination'

Juninho fever. Fancy stadiums and facilities are all very well, it seems, but in sport you can't beat the impact of a hero.

Sir Bob Scott, when he was promoting the Manchester Olympic bids, used to talk with a gleam in his eye of "a leisure-led saving of the city". But whenever he was making his pitch he used to trot out the two magic words of English that are known and understood all around the world — Bobby Charlton. He, too, knew the value of a hero.

Up the road from Middlesbrough, Sir John Hall, the boss of Newcastle United, talks with Messianic vision of how he sees sport regenerating the North East. His dream is of a multi-faceted sports club encompassing football, rugby union, ice hockey, sports car racing and athletics, modelled on the great continental clubs like Real Madrid, and having a huge social and economic impact on the Newcastle area. But Sir John is shrewd enough to realise that to plug into the latent passion of the people of the North East he needs around him people who can grab the imaginations of the supporters. So he has recruited for his lieutenants two sporting folk-heroes, Kevin Keegan and Rob Andrew.



Whenever the building of sports facilities has revitalised a local community and put it on the map, there you will find driving it the local hero, the cult figure. Brendan Foster brought a message of hope, a new stadium and international athletics to Gateshead in the 1980s. Mary Peters, after winning a gold medal at the Munich Olympics of 1972, inspired and led the campaign to rebuild the old Queen's University track in Belfast. She saw it brought up to world standard, named after her, and never once disturbed by terrorist activity through all the long years of her country's troubles.

The fierce local enthusiasm for sport, and loyalty for a team, that men like Sir John hope to plug into has been nurtured for more than a century and traditionally has been focused on a "town" team. As modern sport was emerging in late Victorian

Britain, intense concentrations of working people produced ready-made crowds and, for half a century or so, the football clubs had it made.

The pattern of sports-watching was simple, and was repeated in towns and cities throughout the land — people (mainly male) would leave their homes and attend games locally and collectively, loyally supporting their team. It was a pattern that was to be battered badly, first by the cinema and then much more fiercely by radio and television.

It has taken live sport, particularly British football, several decades to come to terms with television. The clubs realised that there was big money in television and increasingly abandoned real-life spectators in favour of the camera. Stadiums were often neglected and allowed to run down, and spectators were driven away, preferring to experience their sport in comfort on the screen. Now those like Sir John at Newcastle and Steve Gibson and Bryan Robson at Middlesbrough have realised that there is another way forward. Give the supporters great facilities and stars, and you give them back more than entertainment — you reignite their regional pride and release a floodtide of enthusiasm.

'Athens was abuzz and the Olympic dream was afire'

The first great custom-built multi-sport stadium of modern times was the fine marble structure erected in Athens in 1896 to stage the first modern Olympic Games, masterminded by Baron de Coubertin. Despite all of the baron's best efforts, it played to indifferent houses during the early days of competition. But, as the Games drew towards their end, the word got around that a Greek was favourite to win the final event — the marathon. With 12 Greeks entered in a field of 16, they had to start with a fighting chance.

During the closing miles of the race, horsemen took news back to the stadium that a Greek was in the lead, and, when Spiridon Louis ran onto the track, the crowd of more than 60,000 went wild with delight. The winged Nike was escorted to the line by two Greek princes and, as he fought his way through the crowds after the race, he was showered with money and jewellery.

The whole of Athens was abuzz and the Olympic dream was afire. For the Games, the million-drachma stadium was a good start, but in sport, then as now, you can't beat a home win by a local hero.

JOHN BRYANT

Torrance closely attended in final drive for honours

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SOTOGRADE

THIS is how a golf season should end — one tournament left and three men striving with every sinew to win it because of what is at stake. The first prize is £125,000 and there is a bonus of the same amount to the winner. Best of all is that at the tournament which starts today it will be decided who becomes the leading player on the PGA European Tour this year.

The venue is Valderrama, the lovingly tended course five miles east of Gibraltar where the 1997 Ryder Cup will be staged. The tournament is the Volvo Masters, the 35th event of the season in Europe. And the contenders are Sam Torrance, at present leading the Order of Merit by a whisker from Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer, who trails Montgomerie but is far from out of it. What could be more appropriate in such an exciting year than that the issue will almost certainly not be decided until the last stroke on Sunday afternoon?

Torrance, 42, is having an outstanding year and has won more than £800,000 worldwide. He is playing the golf of his life, proof that, for some, life begins at 40. As if getting married in January, winning three events on his home continent this season and his excellent play in the Ryder Cup were not enough, last Sunday he glided the lily and added a further £100,000 to his swag this year by helping Scotland to win the Alfred Dunhill Cup, at St Andrews, for the first time.

As well as a handsome cheque, Torrance picked up a bag in St Andrews and has been taking antibiotics for five

days. But, after spending Monday in bed, he was talking confidently enough yesterday. "It has been a lifetime ambition of mine to win the Order of Merit," he said. "I am very, very ready for what I have to do to win this week. There cannot be any more pressure on me than there was in the Ryder Cup and I coped with that all right."

Torrance has never before been the European No. 1, though he was leading in 1984 with three tournaments left. Then he was spectacularly overtaken by Langer in the Spanish Open, at El Saler. In part thanks to a 62 that

remains one of the greatest rounds in a European event. Langer went on to win the Order of Merit that year. Langer must finish either first or second to stand a chance of winning the Order of Merit for a third time and then it depends on where Torrance and Montgomerie finish.

For the two Scots, it is a straight fight, winner takes all — so long as Langer does not mess up the equation. He is likely to do so. There is nothing he likes more than grinding out a score and it will not have escaped the notice of his rivals that last year he had

another 62 on his way to victory here.

Montgomerie's chances of winning the Order of Merit for the third year in a row, an achievement by Severiano Ballesteros in 1976, 1977 and 1978, are lessened by the continued pain he is suffering in his left wrist. He has lengthened his swing this year in order to try and prevent himself from blocking the ball to the right and, as a result of this extended backswing, he has strained a tendon between the index finger and thumb on his left hand. The cure is rest but, so long as Montgomerie is not damaging his wrist, and he has been assured by doctors that he is not, he is ignoring this advice.

Montgomerie has a powerful incentive. "I have never gone down in the Order of Merit. I might as well give it a go," he said.

Torrance or Montgomerie? "I would have to give the edge to Montgomerie on this course," Langer said. "He is very steady, one of the best drivers and good in a wind and it can blow here. He does not have any weaknesses. Sam's improvement this year has been due to his driving. He has always had a good swing but now he is hitting the ball further from the tee and he is putting better than ever."

It is all finely balanced. Torrance is £3,829.58 ahead of Montgomerie and Langer is £56,477.23 behind Montgomerie. It is important to include the pence. Come Sunday evening, every one of them may be needed.

City challenge, page 26



Torrance plays his shot to the 4th green during the pro-am event at Valderrama yesterday

Fulton summoned to face disciplinary committee

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DESPITE naming an unchanged side and being installed as 7-4 on favourites to beat England in the Halifax rugby league World Cup final at Wembley on Saturday, Australia found other events of the field yesterday somewhat more unsettling.

Bob Fulton, the Australia coach, has been ordered before the disciplinary committee of the International Rugby League Board next week to explain remarks directed at Greg McCallum, the tournament director of referees, after the semi-final defeat of New Zealand last Sunday.

Fulton, who described the incident as a "non-issue and non-event", could be fined or reprimanded for approaching McCallum after the match in Huddersfield went in to extra time and allegedly saying: "It's a carve-up, you are responsible and it's a slight on your name."

The Australia management subsequently issued a formal complaint about the referee, Russell Smith, of England, whom McCallum defended yesterday. "Obviously some of the issues raised in the Australian's complaint are justified, as they are in any game but

overall, the video supports the overwhelming majority of his decisions," he said.

In referring the matter to the board, Maurice Lindsay, the tournament director, said: "It would be a shame to detract from what was a magnificent semi-final and from the final itself, but we cannot let it go without investigation."

There was no place in the final selection for David Gillespie, the Manly prop, who has been troubled by a hamstring injury since the opening defeat by England. "We figured that we would be better served by going in with those players who played at the weekend," Fulton, whose only injury worry is Rod Wishart, the goal-kicking wing, said.

Confidence within the Kangaroos' camp has risen on the back of the 30-20 defeat of the Kiwis, although Fulton acknowledged that England, albeit hit by the withdrawal of Shaun Edwards and Daryl Powell, had their best chance of ending Australia's 20-year domination of the World Cup.

"I'm pretty well pleased with the way things have gone since our opening game when we were beaten by the better side on the day," Fulton said.

Referring to another complaint and possible fine, for flouting rules on tobacco ad-

vertising — support staff ran on to the pitch at Huddersfield in sweatshirts which bore the logo of the team's sponsor — Carr said: "The trainers have run on in every World Cup game with the logo on. This time the shirts were red and stood out. Anything which causes friction or a problem, we'll certainly look at."

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BASEBALL 42

CLEVELAND'S LATE
RUN BREATHES LIFE
INTO WORLD SERIES

SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26 1995

England reach stiff victory target against Eastern Transvaal

Ramprakash rises to challenge

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON
IN SPRINGS

ENGLAND prevailed in their 50-over day-night match against Eastern Transvaal, but it was a close run thing. They got there chiefly because Mark Ramprakash rode his luck and the lower order rallied to his cause. With his unbeaten innings of 89, Ramprakash enabled England to win by five wickets with an over to spare.

Ramprakash, dropped at mid-on when he was 50, survived a confident appeal for a catch at the wicket one run later and, on 59, umpire Barry Lambson judged that he had made his ground when a throw came in from mid-wicket. Dominic Cork gave him valuable assistance as the pair whittled down the requirement of 68 from the last ten overs.

The start of the England innings was bizarre. In the second over Stewart, after pulling Stevenson for two boundaries, clipped an uppitch shot to short mid-wicket where Skeete, the Barbadian, dived to hold a good two-handed catch. As he rolled over, Skeete released the ball in triumph and Stewart waited until the umpire, Cyril Mitchell, pronounced the catch good before leaving the crease.

Skeete's third over brought a bran tub of unexpected delights. It began when Atherton sought a sharp single to mid-wicket and survived only because the umpire, Barry Lambson, chose to ignore the evidence of a bat nine inches short of the crease when Cook's throw broke the wicket. There was no third umpire but in this case there was no need for one.

At once Skeete should have had Hick caught at the wicket and this time it was Hick's turn to be lucky. Unaccountably, McBride dropped the



Cork found a moment for reflection as the home side piled on the runs in yesterday's day-night match. Photograph: Graham Morris

ball and Hick made good his escape, top-edging a shot over the third-man boundary and pulling another six over long-leg. They were not so much strokes of a man inspired as one who was fearful of what

fate might well befall him. Hick's intuition was not misplaced. After striking three good boundaries he tried to "fetch" Meyer from around his off stump and caught the ball high on the bat, offering the bowler a high return catch. He took gleefully, running towards mid-wicket to make sure it was his.

Atherton, partnered by Thorpe, now shouldered the responsibility for seeing England to their target. Characteristically, he prepared himself for the role as innings sustainer until he was tempted far from his crease by Jordan and McBride achieved the stumping. It was a clever piece of bowling by the spinner, who had bowled the ball a shade wider after being driven down the ground for four.

In Jordan's next over, Thorpe preferred to rock back on the back foot. Opening the face of his bat as he tried to work the ball through the leg side, he missed it as it turned into him and he was given out leg-before.

SCOREBOARD FROM SPRINGS	
EASTERN TRANSVAAL	
W R Radford c and b Cork	92
M Hickley b Lingworth	42
C R North b Gough	32
C Granger not out	28
T A Marsh c Smith b Martin	25
S M Skeete not out	2
Extras (lb 6, w 3, nb 1)	10
Total (5 wickets)	261
G P Cooke, *HB McBride, G D Stevenson, J R Meyer and L C R Jordan did not bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-115, 2-158, 3-211, 4-253, 5-261.	
BOWLING: Cork 10-1-48-1; Fraser 9-0-48-0; Martin 10-2-49-1; Gough 10-0-45-1; Lingworth 9-0-52-1; Hick 2-0-12-0.	

The England bowling lacked steadiness as Eastern Transvaal built handsomely on a century opening stand between Radford and Mitchell. There were only three maidens in the innings and the ground fielding was moderate, to say the least. These are early days on tour but England must improve their stopping, movement and

throwing. Both openers played comfortably, at first within themselves and then more confidently as they realised they were not facing supermen. By the time Radford reached his half-century, from 69 balls, with a pulled six off Illingworth he had found the boundary eight times, prompting one of the less

agreeable audio-sensory innovations. In order to bring some fizz to the proceedings, every time a batsman scored four runs the public address system blasted out a ghastly jingle, which ended: "That's the way to change the score... Uh, huh, uh, huh, uh, huh, it's four!"

As if this was not enough to satisfy the idle mind there appeared from the main stand an array of schoolgirls, togged up in all-red outfits, who serenaded spectators with an innocent brand of hokum. Mitchell, sweeping at Illingworth, was bowled off his pads for 42. Radford was eight short of a hundred when he gave Cork a return catch. The momentum he established was maintained by Grainger, Morris and Marsh as the batsmen took full advantage of a flat pitch and some lenient fielding and England were left to make 262 for victory.

A team challenge, page 42
Embury obstacle, page 42

GOLF 46

TORRANCE SETS OFF
IN PURSUIT OF
LIFETIME AMBITION

Report fails to allay fears on boxing safety

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

THE British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) announced recommendations yesterday to tighten up medical procedures before and after boxing matches. But they will have done little to convince the general public that boxing is any safer today.

The report took eight medical specialists, including four neurosurgeons, nearly 18 months. By a curious irony, the work of the panel, which started after the death of Bradley Stone, was released just 12 days after James Murray died. The panel said that the report was not a reaction to Murray's death.

The recommendations have been approved by the board but have yet to be passed by the area councils. The most important of the 12 points are: referees to be permitted to consult ringside doctors during contests and doctors allowed to draw any matter of concern to the notice of referees between rounds; weight-in times to be brought forward at least 24 hours; magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans to be compulsory for all boxers; the suspension period for boxers knocked out to be extended from 28 days to 45.

Peter Richards, a neurosurgeon and the chairman of the panel, said doctors would only minimise the risk and treat boxers as quickly and efficiently as possible in the case of serious injuries.

"I was asked on many occasions last week whether, having operated on men who have died, I can justify boxing. The fact is I have operated on far more people who have fallen off bicycles and died than boxing. I have operated on far more people who have been minding their own business in the street who have been hit over the head with a bottle than boxing."

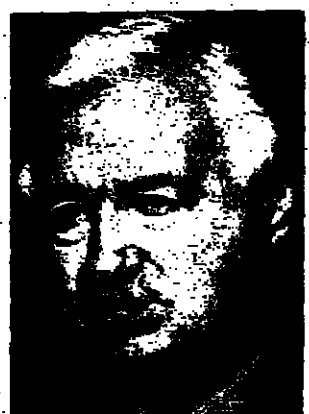
"All these things upset me but it is a part of life and it is my view that if you wish to box, and society wishes to go on boxing, then it is our duty as doctors to inform boxers of the risk and then do what we can to minimise the risk, and then, if something does go wrong, do what we can to treat them."

Richards believes that shorter contests would be safer but the panel was unable to make any proposal as it felt it would need the approval of other world bodies first. "Accidents have come at the

end of hard fights between two well-matched opponents," Richards said. "We felt it would be wise to reduce the number of rounds. What we couldn't do was put a figure on how many rounds is safe, other than zero."

The panel failed to address adequately the problem of dehydration. Bringing the weight-in forward 24 hours is unlikely to have any effect. As Barry McGuigan, chairman of the Professional Boxers Association, said: "Twenty-four hours is not enough time to recover."

John Morris, the BBBC secretary, said that inspectors would be making unannounced checks at gyms to see that weight reduction was being properly supervised. Morris will also be consulting the boxing commission in South Africa, where boxers



Morris: weight concerns

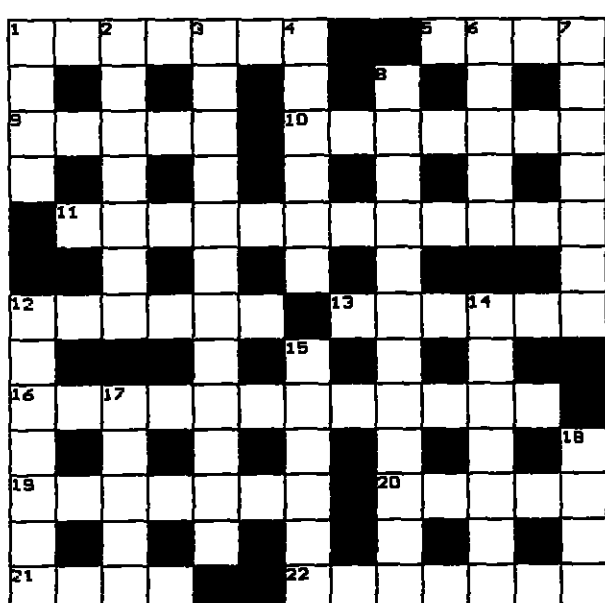
have to make a weight five days before a bout or be ruled out.

Dr Adrian Whiteson, the chief medical officer of the board, said: "The boxer himself is responsible for his own fitness. If you cheat you are in trouble. And boxers must be aware of the weight at which they are comfortable, not the weight at which they look good in the ring, and then collapse later. We have also got to prevent boxers going into the ring who are disadvantaged, hence the MRI."

A spokeswoman for the British Medical Association said: "This is a step in the right direction. The recommendations, such as the MRI scan, we think will produce a body of research indicating the kind of acute, and in particular accumulative, damage to boxers' brains which necessitate a ban on the sport."

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 610 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 Sudden, unofficial (strike) (7)
- 5 Curved span; roughish (4)
- 9 Night watch (5)
- 10 Hammered, beaten (iron) (7)
- 11 Hardy wrote about his May- or (12)
- 12 To flush (6)
- 13 Ridiculous (6)
- 16 Scatty person (7-5)
- 19 Austere (7)
- 20 Scandinavian giant; to sing; to fish (5)
- 21 Joint sealant; old instrument (4)
- 22 Present, established in locality (7)

DOWN

- 1 Undulating (4)
- 2 Dawdler (7)
- 3 Have control of events (4,3,5)
- 4 Cheap, showy (6)
- 6 Unbending (5)
- 7 Rash person (7)
- 8 Independently confirmed (12)
- 12 Option to accept; decision not to (7)
- 14 Even; identifying clothes (7)
- 15 Periphery; hair cut short of forehead (6)
- 17 (Kept) separate (5)
- 18 Political group of countries (4)

PRIZES:

THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO No. 609

ACROSS: 1 Liquefy 5 Puff 8 Detour 9 Appeal 10 Roomiest 12 Roof 13 Influenza 17 Lour 18 Metrical 20 Bundle 21 Invite 23 Stay 24 Debate
DOWN: 2 Treason 3 UFO 4 Force 5 Paparazzi 6 Flagon 7 Battle 11 Man Friday 14 Lumber 15 Robust 16 Carrel 19 Twine 22 Via

Hull City granted stay of execution

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

HULL City may be facing a last chance to guarantee survival after gaining a late reprieve from a winding-up order yesterday. The struggling Endsleigh Insurance League second division club was given 28 days at a High Court hearing to pay a £252,770 debt to the Inland Revenue, after securing a loan from a local businessman.

The Revenue's counsel, Amanda Tibbles, had pressed for the club to be wound up immediately, stating that the bill, in respect of unpaid national insurance and income tax, dated back to May, 1993. Hull's counsel, Robin Hullington, accepted that the club was insolvent but claimed it would be in a position to pay the debt, through the sale of a player or players, in a reasonably short time. He claimed the value of the club's freehold property

exceeded its tax liability and that it had recently received an offer of about £750,000 for a player, believed to be from Norwich City for Dean Windass, the free-scoring midfielder player.

Martin Fish, the club chairman, admitted that Hull were in desperate straits. "I've no doubt that, if we have to go back, we will be dead and buried," he said after the hearing. "It was a very close run thing today, an absolutely nail-biting situation. They persisted with trying to wind us up right to the end."

The Wales international, Nathan Blake, has escaped a three-match suspension after being sent off for Sheffield United at Southend United earlier this month. The forward was dismissed by the referee, Clive Wilkes when a linesman allegedly saw him spitting at the Southend defender, Mike Lapper. Blake, who won his fifth

international cap in Wales's European championship meeting with Germany in Cardiff two weeks ago, had protested his innocence and, at his disciplinary hearing in London yesterday, was cleared of his suspension. However, the Football Association panel upheld his dismissal.

Nigel Clough, the Liverpool striker, said yesterday that he would welcome a transfer to Manchester City. The former Nottingham Forest and England striker has become a forgotten man at Anfield this season, failing to emerge from the shadow cast by the presence of Ian Rush, Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore, and is understood to be a target for Alan Ball, the City manager.

Clough, who joined Liverpool in a £2.3 million deal from Forest in June 1993, said: "I've given it a good year or two and things haven't

worked out. Hopefully if someone is interested we can work things out."

"When I arrived here, I was at my peak and an England international. Now I'm a Pontins League player who can't get in the first-team squad. I'm sure we can come to some arrangement."

It is believed that City, adrift at the bottom of the FA Carling Premiership, are struggling to raise enough cash to tempt Liverpool to part with Clough. The Merseyside club is almost certain to want to recoup most of its original outlay.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, confirmed: "There has been an inquiry about Nigel — but there's been nothing since. If someone makes a reasonable offer, we would have to be sensible and think about his position. He's not getting first-team football and that's certainly not good for him."

McRae's title chase made to order

BY STEPHEN SLATER

COLIN MCRAE moved a step closer yesterday to becoming the first British rally driver to reign as world champion after taking second place behind his 555 Subaru team-mate, Carlos Sainz, in the Catalonia Rally. McRae and Sainz are joint leaders of the championship with 70 points and just the Network Q RAC Rally to come next month.

But the event in Spain was accompanied by controversy after McRae had finished first. The Scot started the final day in second place, eight seconds behind Sainz, and was expected to hold

his position because he had earlier agreed to team orders that would allow the Spaniard to maintain his hopes of a third world title with a win on home soil.

However, McRae stormed through the final asphalt stages, overturning Sainz's lead and finishing the last timed section with a lead of six seconds. McRae then received a one-minute time penalty by checking in early at the final checkpoint on the road section back to Lloret de Mar, handing victory to Sainz.

McRae, 27, was diplomatic about the Subaru team's strategy. "The team orders made sense. If we'd fought against one another for first place, one of us may well

have pushed a little too hard and we could have lost some very valuable points in the manufacturers' championship. Now Carlos and I start the final round on equal points and it will make the Network Q RAC Rally incredibly exciting."

The RAC Rally, which McRae won last year, starts in Chester on November 19. His other leading championship rival, Juha Kankkunen, crashed on Tuesday and starts eight points adrift of McRae and Sainz in his attempt to take a fifth world title.

Results, page 45

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FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

I made mistakes from ignorance, incompetence and overwork.
I did not knowingly violate any law - a standard of conduct.
No one in the White House, to my knowledge, violated any law or standard of conduct, including any action in the White House. There was no need to benefit any individual or specific group.
The FBI lied in their report to the AG.
The press is covering up the alleged benefits they received from the travel receipts.
The GOP has lied and misrepresented to Americans and the world and created a panic.
The United States plotted, conspired, schemed, conspired, taking advantage of Kato and not the public will never believe the words of the Clinton and the large staff.
The WST section lies without mercy.
I never met for the night on the April 14th of public lies in Washington. Here Raining people is concerned about.

Vincent Foster's torn-up "suicide note", left, now branded a fake by an independent British expert, and a sample of the former Clinton aide's handwriting in an undisputed letter



VINCENT W. FOSTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.
6/18/93

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we order these interests were distributed
by mother. As reflected by the enclosed
I demand she assigned the interests
me.

Please review your records

Sincerely
Vincent W. Foster

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

Brindisi: Greenpeace activists accused French commandos of committing an "act of war" off Italy when they boarded the *Altair* and threw teargas grenades on the bridge, after a protest against French nuclear testing. (Renter)

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

THABO MBEKI, South Africa's First Deputy President, has outraged members of the national police force after he claimed that some policewomen were working as prostitutes to supplement their incomes.

Mr Mbeke's allegation was made during a television and national radio discussion in which he said that the Government was looking at improving the salaries and working conditions of the police.

His remarks have baffled the office of the Police Commissioner, George Fivaz, which said it was not aware of any reports of policewomen engaging in prostitution. A spokesman for the commissioner said they recognised

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON



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Meciar: dirty tricks

Slovak leader warned

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE European Union and the United States, in an unprecedented warning to an East European government, have told Vladimir Meciar, the Prime Minister of Slovakia, that unless he stops harassing the opposition and using dirty tricks against President Kovac, Slovakia will no longer be considered for EU membership.

EU ministers yesterday joined in expressing "serious concern" as the warning came after the kidnapping of President Kovac's son, allegedly by the Slovak intelligence service, and the relentless campaign to force the President from office. All civil servants in Slovakia were instructed recently to sign letters calling for Mr Kovac's resignation.

The American Embassy in Bratislava also said that President Clinton was concerned at events in the former eastern half of Czechoslovakia.

Last year the EU condemned Mr Meciar for seizing control of the state radio and television, and the state intelligence agency. Since then, the Prime Minister, engaged in a political feud with Mr Kovac, has tried to declare the election of opposition deputies invalid and he has spearheaded a campaign of harassment.

Russians in Bosnia to be independent of Nato allies

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK
AND RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE United States and Russia are working on a formula that would allow Russian troops to work independently of Nato in Bosnia-Herzegovina, by assigning them specific tasks such as mine-clearing and bridge-building.

Diplomats say that follow-up discussions on the proposal have been held since Monday's meeting between President Clinton and President Yeltsin. The plan will be the main topic of tomorrow's talks in Washington between their two countries' defence ministers, William Perry and Pavel Grachev.

The idea is to give Russian peacekeepers an independent role outside the command structure of the 60,000-strong Nato force that would move into the Balkans if there is a peace agreement. Rather than assign Russian peacekeepers to a particular zone, such as Serb-held areas, the plan would give them specific responsibilities.

Diplomats say Russian troops are well-equipped to undertake such tasks as mine-clearing, engineering and air-lifts, which will form part of any international effort to implement a peace accord.

The proposal would satisfy Moscow's insistence that Russian troops not be placed under Nato command because the Russian troops would operate under a specific mandate of the UN Security Council — either under their own flag or that of the UN.

An earlier option under consideration was for the Russians to work with the French, who are not part of Nato's integrated military structure. While the overall operation would remain under the command of an American Nato general, the Russian com-

manders would ultimately answer directly to Moscow.

Certainly, it has become clear that the Russians' initial offer to send 20,000 combat troops is out of the question. Although the Russian military has up to two million men under arms, few are adequately trained for the delicate work required in Bosnia and most frontline troops are already serving in Chechnya or Tajikistan.

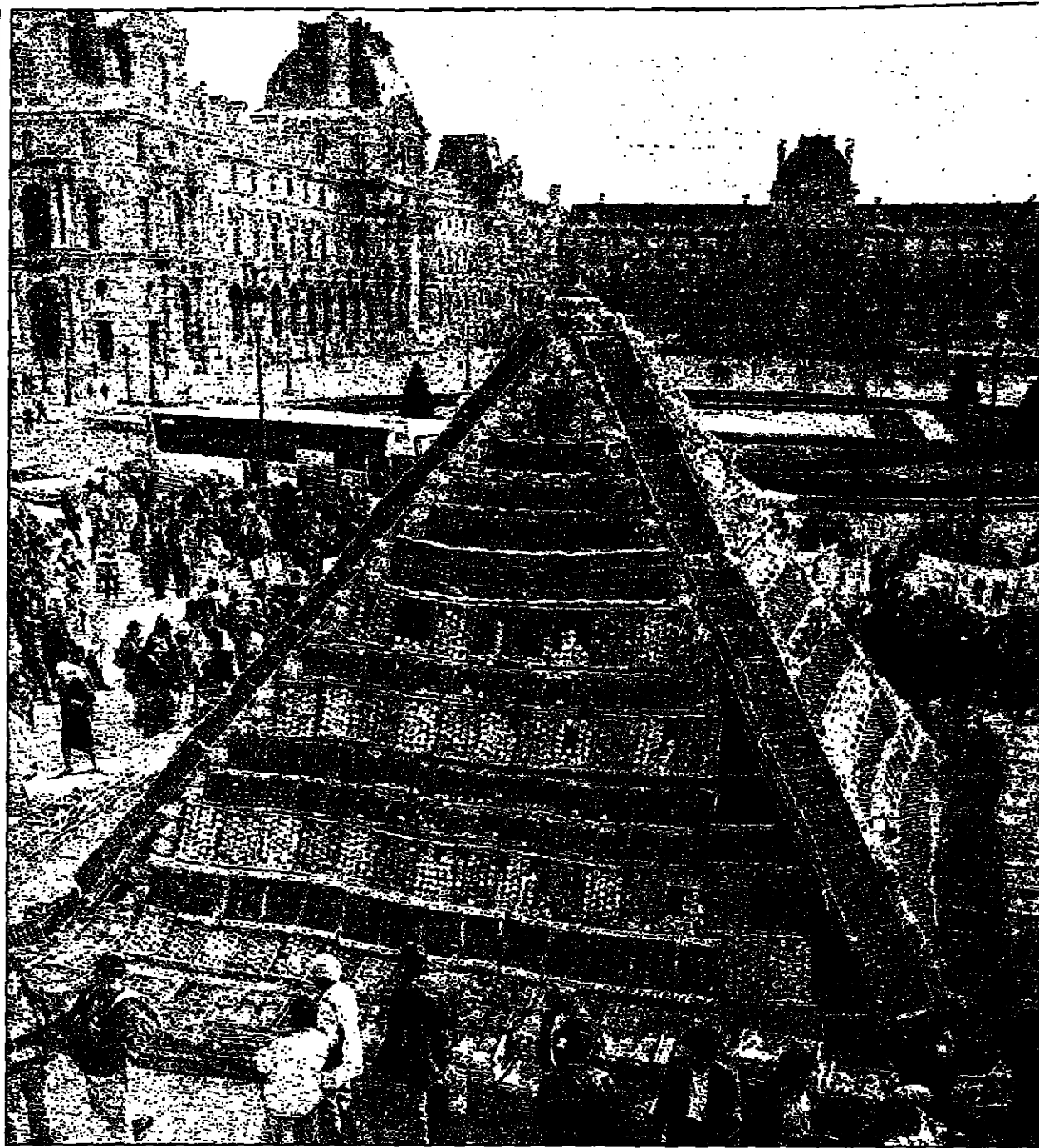
Meanwhile, the leaders of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia will attend an historic Balkans summit in Moscow next week before the first round of peace negotiations on the former Yugoslavia scheduled to take place in America at the beginning of next month.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Moscow said that President Izetbegovic of Bosnia, President Tudjman of Croatia and President Milosevic of Serbia would receive Mr Yeltsin's personal endorsement for their negotiations.

The meeting seems to be the result of the Russian leader's discussions earlier this week with Mr Clinton. The Americans have decided to share with the Russian leader some of the favourable publicity surrounding the opening of peace negotiations, in return for winning Russia's support for the process.

"Everybody wants the Russians on board for the peace plan," said one Western diplomat. "If they are left outside it could create problems further down the line."

□ **Zagreb:** The remains of 11 Croat civilians murdered by rebel Serbs were found in a deserted house in Siroka Kula, in an area of Croatia recently recaptured from the Serbs, a Croatian official said yesterday. (Reuters)



A 20ft-high pyramid of fruit and vegetables built by growers near the Louvre before yesterday's rally in Paris

French farmers protest over imports

FROM REUTERS
IN PARIS

ANGRY French farmers demonstrated in Paris yesterday against cheaper imported produce and supermarket chains that drive down prices. A key part of the protest was a 20ft pile of fruit and vegetables outside the Louvre on Monday, mimicking the museum's steel and glass entrance pyramid.

"They fix prices so low that we can't cover our costs. They have a buying

monopoly and we have to go through them," said a tomato producer from the south, who declined to give her name for fear of annoying her distributor.

Others said that they could not compete with imports because of labour costs and currency fluctuations. "We can't go on like this. Many people near us are going out of business," Veronique Villart, a vegetable producer from Picardy, said.

□ **Rail chaos:** France endured another day of travel turmoil yesterday after a

one-day strike by rail workers reduced services in some areas to a third of normal capacity (Ben Macintyre writes).

Unlike the nationwide public sector workers' strike earlier this month, central Paris escaped largely unscathed, but services were disrupted badly on high-speed TGV lines, inter-city links, and suburban trains. The London-Paris Eurostar service was unaffected.

Five SNCF unions seek wage rises amid fears of cuts to the loss-making network and jobs over the next four years.

Paris hails 'le charme' of Chirac's English

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

UNTIL last Monday no French President had dared, or dared to, to conduct a television interview in English, but Jacques Chirac's chat with the American talk-show host Larry King this week broke a presidential tradition of sticking resolutely to the mother tongue.

French reaction to this departure from convention was mixed: some critics accused the President of appealing to international opinion by choosing to announce the scaling back of French nuclear tests in English on an American television programme. Others saw M Chirac's interview on the CNN network as yet another sign that French is being swamped gradually by the English, or rather American language.

Most newspapers yesterday applauded the President's unprecedented foray into English. "Jacques Chirac is an exceptionally able communicator," *Le Quotidien* said. "By adopting the language of Shakespeare, he has sought direct contact with America."

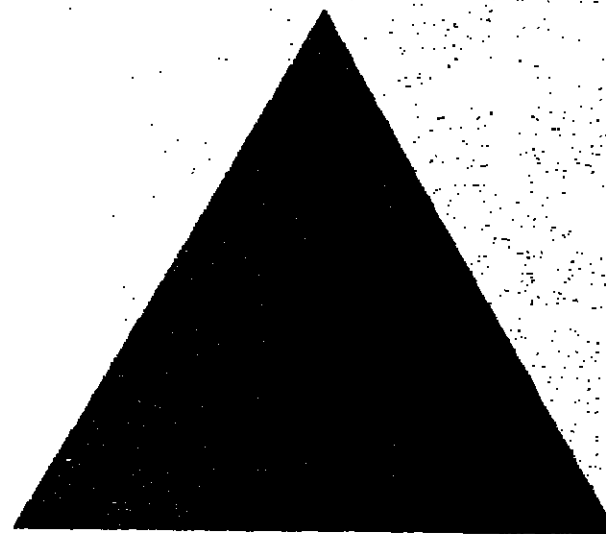
The tabloid *France Soir* spoke glowingly of "le charme de l'accent français" and noted: "The diehard defenders of the French language have lost a battle. Tough on them."

It is hard to imagine General Charles de Gaulle sitting comfortably, as M Chirac did on Monday, while Mr King in his multi-coloured tie announced chirpily: "Now, the President of France. Tomorrow, Mario Cuomo and Tony Bennett." M Chirac picked up the language during a sojourn in America, when he worked as a motel dishwasher and a chauffeur. He also courted the daughter of a South Carolina senator, so for M Chirac French may not be the first language of love.

"Thank you, Larry, and see you soon," the French President told the unctuous and all-powerful Mr King. Mario Cuomo or Tony Bennett could not have said it better.



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Santer warns environment commissioner of severe consequences

EU's 'Ice Maiden' stops publication of indiscreet diary

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BRUSSELS

RITT BJERREGAARD, Denmark's outspoken European Commissioner for the Environment, retreated in the face of a storm over her indiscretions yesterday and halted the publication of a Brussels diary in which she lambasts European leaders and fellow Europeans.

In what Dames called the nearest to an apology that the pugnacious Mrs Bjerregaard has ever made in a long political career, she said: "Good friends have felt abused and deceived and colleagues have felt that I was overstepping some limits. This I regret very much."

Her costly decision to scrap *The Commissioner's Diary* only three days before it was to reach the shops followed a warning from Jacques Santer, President of the Commission, that she risked severe consequences if she went ahead with publication of her impressions of her first six months in the job this year.

On Tuesday, seated alongside Mrs Bjerregaard, Mr Santer had been subjected to embarrassing questions on the book, which treats him unfavourably, along with many other European leaders. Although the President has no power to sack a commissioner, he could have removed her environment portfolio and assigned her another subject.

Mr Santer was credited in Brussels yesterday for standing up to the formidable Social Democrat politician who has made provocation her stock-in-trade. "He is a genial soul, but he saw he really had to put his foot down," a senior official said of the former Prime Minister of Luxembourg.

Mrs Bjerregaard, 54, whose uncompromising behaviour earned her the nickname of "Ice Maiden", said she had intended to contribute to the "public Danish debate" by penning her impressions, but the effort had backfired.

Out of context, the extracts published this week had misrepresented her views, she said. "In the first instance the aim was to enhance public understanding of the work of the EU but in fact this has had the opposite effect. Many will say that it is too late and that the damage is done. Unfortunately, I cannot change that but I can try to limit the damage."

While some officials lamented the mockery which Mrs Bjerregaard's observations had inflicted on the Commission, it was thought that she was the main victim. "She had already distanced herself from her colleagues and now she has lost whatever credibility she had left," said one.

Mrs Bjerregaard's bleak views of President Chirac, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, may not cause her as much trouble as her home truths about her 19 colleagues.

Commission spokesmen were at pains to distinguish between Mrs Bjerregaard's now defunct oeuvre and the conduct of Bernard Connolly, the British monetary official at the Commission who has been suspended after writing a book denouncing monetary union. Mr Connolly was a Commission civil servant who was bound by staff regulations demanding discretion. Mr Connolly is expected to be called before a disciplinary tribunal later in the year.



Ritt Bjerregaard listens to questions from the press in Strasbourg yesterday

Kohl and Chirac dine out on EMU

FROM MICHAEL KALLENBACH IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, last night used a sumptuous Rhine dinner to impress President Chirac on his first visit to Germany since becoming President of France, while urging him to keep up the momentum of European integration.

However, on the eve of the visit, Michel Barnier, the French European Affairs Minister, reminded France that its conduct in monetary union talks was pivotal in determining Germany's role in economic and monetary union.

In an interview with *Les Echos*, M Barnier warned France that unless it acted responsibly the Germans would drift away from Europe and the EMU project would collapse. He said: "Whether Germany remains in solidarity or becomes solitary again depends on us."

Setting the tone for last night's informal talks in advance of a full Franco-German summit in Baden-Baden on December 7, M Barnier gave assurances that the French President was indeed committed to the timetable for a single currency by 1999.

But the Germans are not convinced, and Herr Kohl was expected to press home this point. There are concerns that France is unwilling to make the budget deficit amendments needed to join a single currency.

"With [former President] Mitterrand, even though there were differences at first, there was a predictability, a familiarity for Kohl. But now he feels he is unable to judge the French or Chirac," one European diplomat closely involved in Franco-German relations explained.

"He will want to use the occasion to establish a working relationship with Chirac so that he doesn't get any nasty surprises in the future."

Two thorny issues that Herr Kohl is likely to bring up are how displeased the German public is about the French nuclear tests in the South Pacific and M Chirac's decision to delay implementing the Schengen open-border pact beyond January 1996.

Nato casts shadow on Walesa election battle

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

ON THE pillars of Salvation Square in central Warsaw, presidential election posters announce: "Walesa knows the whole world!"

The former Solidarity leader is pictured with the Queen (a worried-looking Douglas Hurd in the background), kneeling at the feet of the Pope, laughing with President Clinton, and dwarfed by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor.

Fortunately there is no photograph with Willy Claes, Nato membership is the one issue on which all the candidates for the Polish presidency are agreed. "We want in as quickly as possible," says a Polish diplomat — and there are no votes to be won for being an alliance critic.

Even the former Communist candidate, Aleksander Kwasniewski, who may give President Walesa a run for his money in the November 5 ballot, is in favour, albeit with cooing reassurances to Moscow. Yet there is unease in the Polish political class. Mr Claes was no friend of Poland, but any change at the top of Nato could weaken its resolve to expand. President Yeltsin insists that eastward enlargement is unwelcome.

Western politicians visiting Warsaw are more mealy-mouthed about Nato entry than they were a year ago. The mood seems to have swung against early admission of the Central Europeans, not only because of Duma elections in December and Russian presidential elections next summer.

In the United States, the resistance seems to be growing apace: British MPs from both sides of the House have been hinting to the Poles that they are less enthusiastic than John Major's Government about enlargement. The rhetorical question — are we the Americans, the British, the French ready to die for Bratislava or Gdansk — hangs over Poland.



Lech Walesa fosters a statesman's image with the Queen

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Thumb sign to a common gynaecological problem □ Childhood clues to diabetes □ Prescribing cholesterol-lowering drugs



THE clue to my 50-year-old patient's gynaecological problems did not stem, as is often the case, from childbearing, for she had no children, but in her double-jointed thumbs which caught my attention as she told her story.

My patient's symptoms were straightforward. She had stress incontinence, laughing, coughing, playing tennis, even carrying a heavy shopping bag caused a small leak of urine, the cumulative effects of which could be embarrassing by the end of the day.

Coupled with these troubles was a frequency of urination and some other symptoms of cystitis, including discomfort and a burning sensation when passing urine. The patient now sought help because she had a feeling of "something coming down".

A diagnosis of a prolapsed uterus was probable even before she was examined, for not only did she have the other classic symptoms (incontinence, bladder infections, and backache) but she was

Beware of a double joint



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

at an age when they start to become insufferable.

At the menopause, women not on hormone replacement therapy begin to notice genital atrophy, which often exacerbates a prolapse to a point when the discomfort it produces is no longer acceptable.

The only slightly unusual feature of this case was that the woman had not had any children and was slim. Typically the patient has either had a large family, or a difficult delivery, is overweight and overworked.

All these factors can overstretch

a weakened pelvic floor, the muscle shelf which completes the pelvic girdle, and thereby allow the genital tract to herniate through it so that, in severe cases, the uterus can appear at or even beyond the vaginal opening when the patient stands.

Prolapse can occur in women who have not had children and is thought to be caused by a weakness in the pelvic floor.

Earlier this year, research was published in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology* which could well apply to my patient.

Early warning



RESEARCHERS have recently made considerable progress in investigating the origins of insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus. A study reported in the magazine *General Practitioner* last month showed that this disease was more common in later life in those whose early childhood had been spent in the countryside.

The assumption is that the rural children had less contact with their peers at an age when they still had some of their mother's resistance to infection. This double protection meant that they tended to catch viral diseases not in the first months of life but later, when any immunity they might have acquired from their mother was lost. It is thought that the viruses gave rise to infection triggering the auto-immune response which is probably the basic cause of insulin-dependent diabetes.

Another Swedish research project shows that an upheaval in life when under two can also lead susceptible people to develop insulin-dependent diabetes. The research, published in *Diabetes Care*, analyses the early life of 67 children aged under 15 with diabetes and compares them to a similar group of healthy children.

The study found that those who had suffered a stressful event such as the separation of parents, serious illness, the hospital treatment of a parent, death of a close family member, or moving house more than twice in the first two years were almost twice as likely to develop diabetes in adolescence.

Drug advice



IT was clearly shown by research published last year in *The Lancet* that patients with a history of coronary heart disease and raised cholesterol might well benefit from treatment with

simvastatin, a cholesterol-lowering drug.

Treatment with Zocor achieved a 25 per cent reduction in cholesterol levels and a 37 per cent reduction in mortality.

Despite this convincing evidence from Scandinavia, there has been some reluctance by doctors to treat patients with the drug, possibly because of the cost.

Pulse magazine reports that the Oxford health authorities have taken a lead by recommending to all GPs in their area that they should prescribe a cholesterol-lowering drug for patients with angina, or those who had a previous heart attack, who also have a blood cholesterol level of between 5.5mmol/l.

Dr Godfrey Fowler, a prominent Oxford GP and Reader in General Practice at Oxford University, is quoted as saying that the use of cholesterol-lowering drugs in these cases had been shown to be just as sensible as persuading patients to stop smoking.

Zocor is relatively free of serious side-effects but the development of muscle weakness can make it difficult to stop taking the drug.

Peril in a swollen leg

Women on the Pill are warned about deep vein thrombosis, but they are not the group most at risk

When I was a house officer, a 23-year-old woman was brought into casualty with a badly sprained ankle. The X-ray showed a hairline crack in the fibula bone, so her leg was put into plaster. At her follow-up appointment she mentioned that the plaster felt tight and that she had had pain in her calf for five days.

My consultant immediately ordered the removal of her cast and tests confirmed a deep venous thrombosis (DVT). Apart from the plaster, her only risk factor was the contraceptive pill.

Although there has been much publicity in the past week about the increased risk of DVT for women taking certain brands of oral contraceptive, those most at risk are not these young women, but patients who have just undergone surgery, especially abdominal, gynaecological or groin surgery. If they are also over 40 and overweight, that increases the dangers.

Being immobilised for other reasons, whether on a long air journey, or through injury or illness, is the other main risk. This is why patients are made

to get up very soon after an operation and why leg exercises are recommended for long-haul passengers.

Unless one of these risk factors applies, women unfortunately enough to suffer deep vein thrombosis because of the Pill have blood that has too great a tendency to clot — either because of an inherited excess of one of the clotting factors or a deficiency in natural clotbusters. Only if they have a strong family history of DVT will they be aware of their greatly increased risk of thrombosis.

The notes accompanying all combined oral contraceptives warn women to stop taking the Pill immediately and see their doctor if they experience sudden pain in the calf. In fact, calf pain is a poor predictor of DVT, and more commonly reflects either a strained muscle, internal bruising from a burst blood vessel, or a ruptured sac of fluid at the back of the knee (Baker's cyst). Since the drugs which are the mainstay of treatment for true DVT



Dr TRISHA GREENHALGH

make all these conditions worse, any severe calf pain should be confirmed by radiological tests before treatment begins.

The most reliable feature of a DVT is not pain but swelling of the calf and foot, owing to damming-up of fluid downstream of the clot. As a hospital registrar, I carried a tape measure. Patients with suspected DVT had the circumference of both calves measured at a fixed distance from the knee: a discrepancy of more than two centimetres meant a DVT until proved otherwise. Swelling

of the thigh was a serious omen, since it implied that the clot had spread extensively and there was a substantial risk of embolism — fragments of clot breaking off and being carried in the blood until they lodge in small arteries, commonly in the lungs.

Suspected DVTs have traditionally been confirmed or excluded by performing a venogram — injecting dye into the veins in the feet and looking for a defect on an X-ray. This technique is still widely used, but it is unpleasant and not 100 per cent reliable. In particular, clots in the deepest calf veins and the groin can be missed, and false-positive results may occur when a vein is kinked or compressed from outside.

Radiolabelled venography — the injection of radioactive isotopes with a homing instinct for clots — was once thought to offer significant advantages over traditional venography, but its false-negative rate is high. In one survey, reported in the latest issue of

the *British Journal of Clinical Practice*, 9 per cent of 165 patients suspected of DVT but classed as normal by radiolabelled venography went on to have a further thrombosis in the next three months, and four died of pulmonary embolism.

Ultrasound scanning (similar to the procedure performed in pregnancy) is non-invasive and can confirm or exclude alternative diagnoses, such as a ruptured Baker's cyst.

Between 2 and 5 per cent of DVTs — usually those left untreated for several days — produce life-threatening pulmonary embolism. A large embolus in one of the major lung vessels is generally fatal, producing similar symptoms to a heart attack (central chest pain, breathlessness and collapse), followed rapidly by unconsciousness.

Smaller clots can mimic pleurisy (needle-sharp pain on one side of the chest, worse on taking a deep breath) or asthma (rapid, shallow breathing with a sensation of inadequate air intake), and may cause the patient to cough up blood. Any pulmonary embolus, even a tiny one, is an emergency, since extension of the clot could cause death within minutes.

Both DVT and pulmonary embolism require several weeks of treatment with blood-thinning drugs, usually beginning with heparin given by intravenous infusion or injection. After a week the patient is switched to warfarin, the active ingredient of rat poison, which interferes with the action of vitamin K in promoting clotting factor formation by the liver.

Too much heparin or warfarin greatly increases the risk of severe bleeding, including prolonged nosebleeds, bleeding into the gut and behind the eye, and haemorrhagic stroke. For this reason, patients must have blood tests at least once a month (and sometimes daily). Haematologists pay close attention to the various tests —



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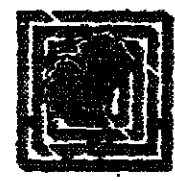
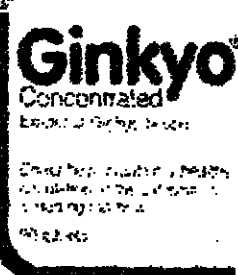
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Sharon Stone wears her French Order of Arts and Letters

How Sharon and Kevin became chic

French civilisation is buckling in the face of an onslaught of Anglo-American trash culture. Kate Muir reports from Paris

French civilisation suffered a double blow this week. First, the American actress Sharon Stone was made a Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Minister of Culture. Secondly, the chart of the most popular boys' names in the country was issued. The winner was Kevin.

For a country desperately trying to maintain its national identity against the onslaught of foreign trash culture, these are two quite unnecessary self-inflicted wounds. How can the beleaguered French Academy continue its daily struggle to keep the language and culture pure?

Looking positively rapturous as he pinned the medal on Ms Stone's breast "in the name of the President of the Republic", the Culture Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy told her: "You are an absolute star. Thank you for making daily life seem a bit less routine." This was clearly a reference to Ms Stone's "services to world culture", and nothing to do with the minister's fond memories of her audacious underdressed scene in the film *Basic Instinct*. The French themselves were not

exactly bowled over by the honouring of Ms Stone. "Doute-Blazy must think the icepick is a symbol of high culture," sniffed *France Soir*, referring to the instrument with which Ms Stone mid-coitally stabbed her lovers in *Basic Instinct*. "But that must be the reason, since Ms Stone is not known for being an ambassador for French culture abroad... She does not speak a single word of French."

Ms Stone joins a select list of Knights of the Order of Arts and Letters, which includes Clint Eastwood, Jane Fonda, Paul Newman, Sylvester Stallone (*Rambo*), and Kenneth Branagh. "But 99 per cent of the awards go to French people," said the ministry.

At the awards ceremony, nobody dared mention Ms Stone's other treacherous act. She is at present making an American version of the celebrated 1954 Henri-Georges Clouzot film *Les Diaboliques*, in

which a mistress and a wife conspire to kill an irritating husband. Stone takes the role of mistress, played by Simone Signoret in the original, and Isabelle Adjani plays the wife. In English, of course. It takes chutzpah to steal a fine French film, destroy it and then sell it back to its country of birth.

The remake is a decisive strike in what the French have called "the 100 years war" against the invasion of American cinema. French directors are desperately trying to create an anti-Hollywood trend, while behind their backs grand awards are being given to the enemy.

More disturbing still, an Americanised word such as *antihollywoodien* is required to make the complaint. The French Academy, which has been keeping the dictionary clear of Anglo-American and Franglais words for the last 300 years, just cannot win. Besides, the academy is unable to

control trends such as the whole-sale embracing by the French of English names. The latest figures show 2.3 boys out of every 100 are Kevins, and that the top girl's name is Laura, but it is only a matter of time before Sharon and Tracy become chic. Surely the popularity of actors such as Kevin Costner (star of *Waterworld*) is to blame for this trend. Can we also credit Kevin Kline who recently played a splendidly hammed-up Gallic lover in *French Kiss* in a less-than-culturally-sensitive manner?

The authors of the report on baby names merely say, cryptically, that "our ears have become familiarised to English sounds". But the Anglo-Saxon name Kevin and its traditional diminutive "our Kev" do not roll off the French tongue easily.

Just as Britain suffered from a plague of Australian Kyles after *Neighbours*, imported American

soap operas have had a profound influence on French parents. There are record numbers of Alisons (*Melrose Place*), Kellys (*Santa Barbara*) and Brandons (*Beverly Hills 90210*).

Of course, Britain has been completely submerged by American culture, but Anglo-Saxon attacks are less noticeable, couched in the same language. Besides, like an unhappy parent, the British cannot leave this abusive relationship with the United States. At least the French are trying to cling to their principles and patriotism.

Their problem is sabotage from within. Already American words which have not even crept into British culture are popping up in France. There was a particularly nasty example in yesterday's *Libération*: "Un Kevingate". This was a reference to Costner's mammoth expenditure in making *Waterworld*, and the actor's assumption that there was a Watergate-like conspiracy against him in the American press. If seeping Franglais was bad, creeping Kevinisation will be infinitely worse.

Jancis Robinson's vintage performance is causing a storm

'I prefer to drink wine, not talk about it'

A high wind is blowing through northwest London, from Hampstead down towards Camden Town, and when Jancis Robinson opens her front door it curls round her from a table, blowing them in a blizzard upstair to the bedrooms and downstairs to the kitchen, where dinner is being prepared.

It is a small storm, though, by comparison with the one Ms Robinson has been whipping up in the wine trade with her weekly BBC2 series *Jancis Robinson's Wine Course*. Many of the myths of an ancient snobbery have been shattered as part of Ms Robinson's 20-year crusade to give wine back to the people. "I prefer to drink wine, not talk about it," she has said. And yet she talks about it with great glee.

"Some of the things that people have got excited about are things I have written before," she says. "But when you say them on television more people listen."

The ten-part series devotes itself to a different grape variety each week and looks at the way it becomes wine — all over the world — in terms of history, technique, and artistry. But then there are what Ms Robinson calls the "bolt-ons", the little slots within each programme where she drops her bombs.

"There are so many misconceptions," she says. "For example, people think that 'breathe' is an active verb when applied to wine, that by opening a bottle an hour before you drink it you are actually improving its quality. But so little of the surface area is exposed to the air that it makes no difference at all. You can aerate the wine perfectly well in your glass."

Then she turns on decanting, beloved ritual of the British wine bore. "There is no point in it at all, unless there is a sediment in the bottle. In fact, you can actually lose

some of the aromas in the process." Just as you can by serving wine too warm, for the concept of serving red wine at room temperature, she says, comes from a time when rooms were much colder than they are today.

Tonight she is expecting guests, but nothing is "breathing" and nothing is being decanted. Her husband, Nicholas Landers, former owner of the Soho restaurant L'Escargot, executive producer of his wife's programme, and a restaurant reviewer, is downstairs cooking tuna and turbot in a kitchen whose wooden floor and shiny copper pots say "Hampstead" loud and clear.

Domestic bliss is interrupted only by fights between four-year-old Rose and 11-year-old William, and then between William and his 13-year-old sister Julia, who comes in to complain that there is no food in the house and then carls her brother away by the ear.

While organising Rose's bath, Ms Robinson, the only British journalist to have qualified as a Master of Wine, has a go at corks. "They are superfluous stoppers. A screw top, or a crown cap would be just as good, and probably better because there is less chance of deterioration. But there is, a stigma attached, and people think that a non-cork closure means bad wine. It might be because I am a woman that I find struggling with a cork so annoying. I frequently fail with a cork-screw and it is infuriating that you have a bottle full of this delicious liquid that you can't get at."

Then she attacks the fashion for oakiness. "Most of the cheaper wines, even from the famous New World wine makers, are not kept in oak barrels at all. They just have a bag of oak chips clucked into the vat. If a label says 'highly oaked' or 'oak influenced', but does not use the word 'barrel' or 'cask', then that is what has happened. The trade ought to be more frank about these things, but they remain very coy."

The combination of coyness and snobbery, which has kept good wine out of the reach of an uninitiated public, has been a target of Ms Robinson's career since her first job, in 1975, as assistant editor on *Wine and Spirit*. "When I was at Oxford in



GILES COREN

the late 1960s and early 1970s you couldn't admit that you were interested in food and wine, it was considered frivolous. One of my friends was known as a *bon viveur* and that was considered a term of abuse."

When it became acceptable to write about such things,

Ms Robinson found that her career was helped by being a woman, rather than hindered. "Women such as Jane MacQuitty and Jilly Goolden were already writing about wine, at trade dinners the big cheeses from France wanted to sit next to women, and there was a spate of articles about women in the wine trade in the mid-1980s."

"The only place there is still serious wine sexism is Australia, and maybe South Africa. But if you teach men and women to taste, and then test them, women will do better. "The producer of *The Wine Programme*, back in the mid-1980s, was specifically looking for a female presenter. It was felt that a woman would come across less pompous and lecturing — and it is probably easier for me to smile sweetly and say that all that decanting is a lot of nonsense."

While we are debunking: "In the case of 95 per cent of wines, ageing does no good at all. The sort of letter I most frequently receive is one that says 'I have a bottle of Liebfraumilch which I saved from my wedding 20 years ago. What's it worth?' It is really sad that people hang on to wine like that. The fact is that very few wines under £5 will improve with age, some bottles less than £10 will get better, and only over £10 will most improve."

That said, Ms Robinson has drunk some extraordinarily old wines. "There was a bottle from 1787 that was a precursor of the Mouton-Rothschild; it was very lively and might have been rejuvenated with port. And then there was a Sauternes from the precursor of Chateau d'Yquem, which they put in the 1730s by carbon-dating the bottle. It was still great."

One feels for dinner guests choosing a bottle to take to the Landers household. "It does break my heart when very generous people bring me a bottle that I know means more to their budget than it does to my palate. There are very good wines to be had for under £5."

Not that she buys them, of course. Her spending is confined to fine wines. But she still

remembers the bottle that started everything off.

"I was at Oxford, and used to drinking Hironelle roses for 59p, but then a rich boyfriend took me out for dinner and ordered a bottle of 1959 Chambolle-Musigny. Suddenly I realised wine was more than just a lubrication. But it took a year out in the Luberon to realise that wine was nothing to be ashamed of, and that it might even be what life is all about."

It was that realisation which has led Ms Robinson to take on the shibboleths that come between wine and the people: "I just want to turn the world on to wine."

And off the old rituals? "Well, there is nothing wrong with uncorking the claret and sticking it on the sideboard for an hour, as long as you are aware that it is nothing more than a ritual. At university I read maths and philosophy, and I still retain a respect for science. Those things have been proved meaningless, and I can't help telling it like it is."

● Jancis Robinson's Wine Course is on BBC2, at 8.30pm on Fridays.



Jancis Robinson and Rose: "Some of the things that people have got excited about are things I have written before"

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We will never civilise our violent children by a doctrine of indulgence and indiscipline

I can always tell when it's school half-term. My train into work is suddenly filled with shrieking children who race up and down the aisle, shouting to one another and climbing over seats which may or may not be occupied by other people.

These children are accompanied by parents — often both of them — who make no attempt whatever to control this spirited behaviour. There may be an occasional sharp word to a child about to put himself in danger, but for the most part, the adults join in the general jollity by treating the train carriage as if it were their own living room, or an extension of the infants' school classroom. The names of stations are carved out and the landmarks of the journey explained at a volume which annoys to everyone on the train that they are proudly participating parents.

And well they might be proud. They are doing precisely what a generation of child-rearing experts has advised them to do: imposing no constraints on their children's natural exuberance, making no

will be completely divested of violent behaviour. What it seeks is nothing less than the "consistent rejection of all interpersonal violence". To that end, it calls for all physical punishment of children to be outlawed. Which should give us a fairly clear hint that the permissive lobby has learnt nothing from the disastrous consequences of its own ideology.

The commission — among the members of which were Penelope Leach, Peter Newell (co-ordinator of the End Physical Punishment for Children campaign) and agony aunt Claire Rayner — suggests that all discipline should be positive and that children should be taught "non-violent conflict resolution". This seems to mean that they should be encouraged to talk out their differences — to settle them in the way that articulate middle-class families do. For those not fortunate enough to have this verbal facility, there can be no recourse to the kind of intuitive, principled firmness that used to be a feature of self-respecting working-class homes.

Even the mildest physical punishments are not an option, the report states firmly: "Nobody has a right to smack a child," since to do so is only to do violence to the child, and violence which is now ruining society. Do these people seriously believe

Indulgence, ignorance and incivility are a lethal mix

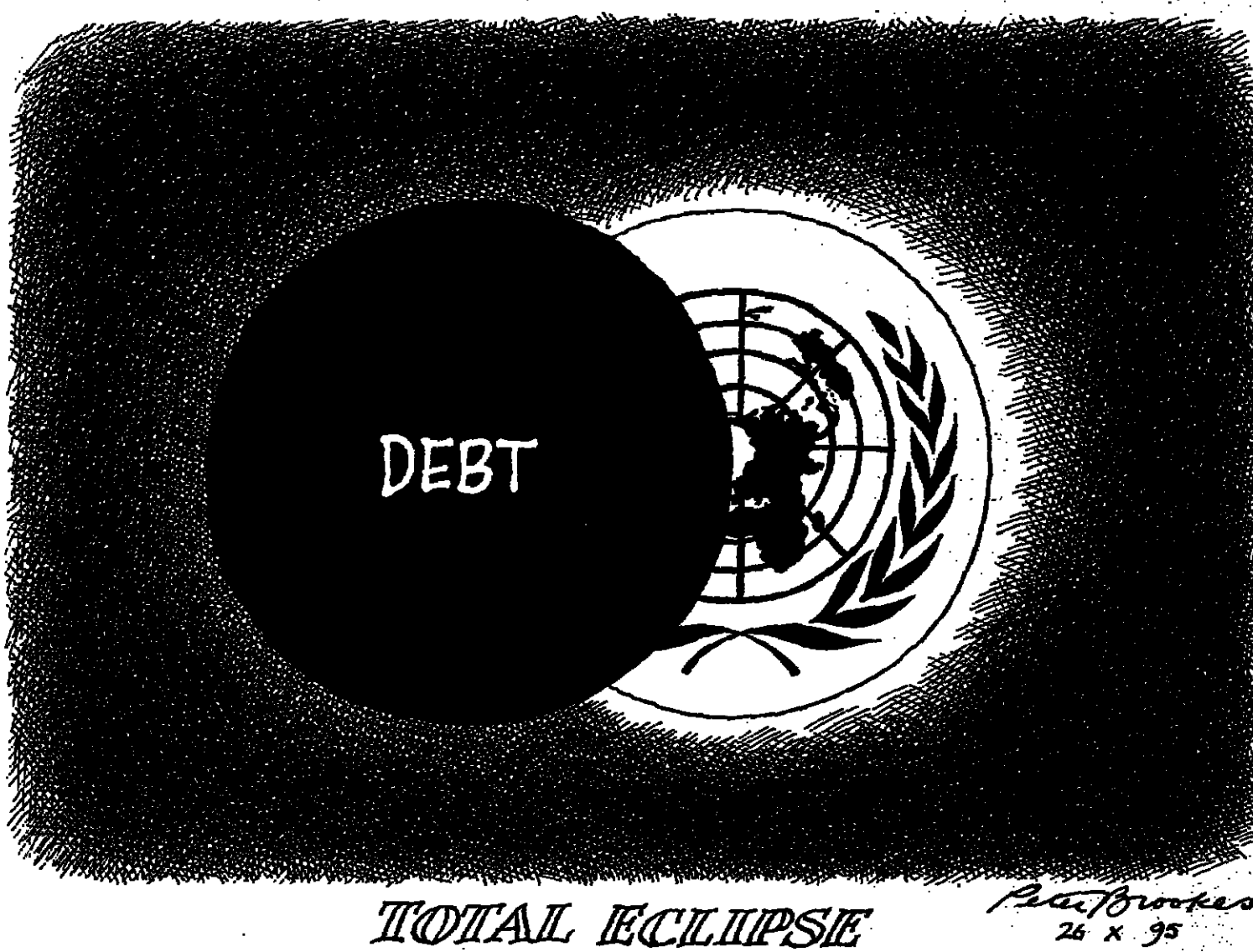
that smacking the hand of a five-year-old is on a continuum with sadistic beating — or even mugging? Smacking, say the experts. Yes indeed, that is what used to be called shame, and thought essential to moral education.

Certainly, children reared amid real violence will probably become violent. But the present generation of abusive, feckless parents are themselves the products of a child-rearing (and schooling) philosophy that refused to teach them self-control. And this kind of advice — reinforced by such legislation as the Children Act — has undermined whatever flicker of adult confidence and conviction might have remained.

And how, exactly, would a law against all physical punishment be enforced? By a neighbourhood of informers? How ironic, given that it was the old working-class neighbourhood solidarity that used to help to uphold codes of decency. Of course children should be rewarded for their goodness and not persecuted for their innocent faults. But aggression and selfishness are part of their natural equipment, being essential for survival. If we do not control those tendencies for them — if necessary, with physical restraint — they are unlikely ever to understand what is so terrible about a violent society.

The price in less fortunate circles has been much higher. And now some of the very same experts who were responsible for the permissive revolution in child-rearing are showing alarm at what they have wrought. Uninhibited indulgence and incivility make a lethal mix with apathy and ignorance. Economic blight is hard to defeat when no habits of perseverance or patience have ever been taught. There are pockets of urban life in Britain that are now ruled by tribes of pre-pubescent children who are completely beyond the control of the adult community. And what are the experts prescribing as an antidote to this nightmare? Why, more of the same.

A report — grandly styling itself "a recipe for building a non-violent society" — has been presented this week by a commission on children and violence. Convened by the Gulbenkian Foundation in the wake of the murder of James Bulger, the commission offers us the goal of a society that



In fear of our genes

As medical knowledge advances, the problem of what to disclose about our chemistry becomes ever more acute

Do we want to know the truth, if the truth is painful and there is nothing that can be done about it? This has always been one of the hardest questions of medical ethics. The great Dr Radcliffe, Queen Anne's physician, answered it by telling his patients: "Had you called me in earlier, I would have been able to save you, but Dr X prescribed quite the wrong medicine for your case, and it is now too late for me to put right what he has done." That would nowadays be thought unethical: in his profession, but enough in fees to build the Radcliffe Camera in Oxford.

This Tuesday, Gila Kolata reported in *The New York Times* a case which is much more typical of modern medicine. In August, Kathleen Clayton, a 51-year-old married woman from New Jersey, went to the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre because of her high cholesterol level. She was worried that it might cause a heart attack. Dr Daniel Rader, who is the director of the lipid clinic at the centre, gave her a test to establish whether she had two copies of a gene, apo E4, which apparently increases the risk of heart disease by between 30 and 50 per cent. The test showed that Mrs Clayton did indeed have the two copies of apo E4.

While Dr Clayton was giving her this bad news, she mentioned some other troublesome symptoms that she was experiencing. She was suffering from memory lapses; "One day she was reading her Bible and found herself unable to decipher words." On another occasion, she found that she had forgotten how to add or subtract the sums in her chequebook.

Dr Rader knew that this double apo E4 does more than just threaten high cholesterol and heart disease. People with two copies of the gene also have a high risk of developing Alzheimer's disease, a higher than average risk in their fifties, and perhaps a 90 per cent risk by the age of 80. There is nothing that doctors can do to prevent or treat this onset of Alzheimer's. As Mrs Clayton was already showing symptoms of the disease, Dr Rader felt he had no choice but to tell her.

No doubt his decision was inescapable, but the result has been that Mrs Clayton is at least considering sui-

cide. She says that she does not wish to end her life innocent, totally dependent, unable to care for herself. She has asked her husband to tell her if she starts to behave really strangely. "That's when I want to make a choice of what to do."

The research which has created this particular doctors' dilemma is desirable in itself. There are four variants of the apo E gene: everyone inherits one copy from each parent. Apo E4 is the bad news; those who inherit apo E4 are three times as likely to develop Alzheimer's as the average person, but those who inherit two of them are six times as likely.

On the other hand, the apo E2 gene is good news: people who inherit two of them are unlikely to get Alzheimer's at all. Perhaps medical research will gain a new understanding of the apo E gene's process itself, if it can be established why apo E4 creates a susceptibility to the disease but apo E2 protects against it. (Apparently E1 and E3 are neutral so far as Alzheimer's is concerned.)

Mrs Clayton has six sisters and a brother. Of these seven siblings, three have been tested, and none of them has proved to have two E4 genes. The other four have decided not to be tested; they do not want to know. The link between apo E4 and Alzheimer's was first suggested only two years ago by Dr Allen D. Roses, a researcher at the Duke University School of Medicine. For some time, research has shown that injuries to the head increase the risk of Alzheimer's. Last year, following up Dr Roses' work, two studies showed that "people with apo E4 genes seem particularly at risk of Alzheimer's when they suffer blows to the head". Boxers who develop Alzheimer's have been shown to be likely to have E4. This leads to an obvious question: should all boxers be tested for apo E4?

with those who turn out to have even the single gene being refused permission to fight? Whatever view one takes of boxing, can it be right to allow people who are already three to six times more prone than average to Alzheimer's to enter a sport in which blows to the head are intentional and inevitable?

The ethical questions do not end there. Apart from the risk of Alzheimer's, the double E4 increases the risk of heart disease in a statistically significant way. If insurance companies came to know the result of these tests, would they not want to load insurance premiums? If one comes to that, is there any reason why insurance companies should not offer favourable rates to those with two apo E2 genes, who have a lower risk of heart disease and a much lower risk of Alzheimer's?

Already doctors in the United States have been asked for apo E4 tests on fetuses by pregnant women who have contemplated having E4 fetuses aborted. One has to remember that both the heart and Alzheimer risks arise largely after the age of 50. Would it be right to abort a fetus solely on the grounds that the lifespan after the age of 50 might be limited? One of the reasons why E4 has survived the process of natural selection is that the harmful effects do not arise until the normal reproductive period is over.

Should patients be tested? At present they are not tested in America for E4 on Alzheimer's grounds, but they are tested, with good reason, on the grounds of the gene's significance in heart disease. If tested, should patients be told? Many of us by now have had routine lipid tests, which probably did not include tests for the apo E4. Only medically trained people have a real understanding of what such tests show. Doctors do not have to draw disturbing results to their patients' attention if they can do

nothing about them, and many do not do so. In the Clayton family, four of the eight siblings did not want to know. I suspect the know-nothing proportion would be at least as high in the population at large.

Should boxers be tested? Here the case seems stronger, perhaps overwhelming, though I am sure there will be very strong resistance. Even with a double apo E4 gene, the probability is that a boxer will live a normal life into his or her fifties, and the possibility is that he or she will have a full lifespan. Perhaps those who die of heart disease are more fortunate than those who die of Alzheimer's, but that is all. A high proportion even of double apo E4 cases have life chances comparable to, though not equal with, the human norm.

Yet they are all particularly vulnerable to being hit on the head. A combination of a double E4 with boxing, or other head-banging sports, is lethal. Such difficult problems in medical ethics are not new; they go back as far as the history of medicine itself. What is new is the growth of knowledge. Until a couple of years ago, nobody knew about the possibility of the relationship between the apo E gene and Alzheimer's disease. Now this is one of a rapidly rising number of genes identified as showing a susceptibility to one disease or another. There is a gene which transmits a heightened risk of breast cancer, and no doubt there are genes for many other cancers as well. We are already being flooded with potential knowledge, some of which will lead to new treatments and cures, but much of which will simply give the bad news — news of heightened risk. We have more knowledge than we know how to handle.

Medicine will continue to identify more and more genes which cause susceptibility to disease. Perhaps the gene for susceptibility to schizophrenia will finally be identified. But even then, medicine will not fully understand all the purposes these genes may serve. We should not forget that the gene for sickle-cell anaemia, which is such a scourge of West Africa, also confers a certain degree of immunity against malaria. We neither know the full facts of these genetic networks of causation, nor do we have an ethical consensus on how best to deal with them.

MPs' pay must be doubled

The Commons needs a boost, says Terence Higgins

Parliament faces a serious recruitment problem. Not in sheer number of candidates, but in the sense that the quality, talent and commitment of new candidates will be low. They may constitute a House of Commons unfit to do its job, or too few individuals capable of filling ministerial posts.

Members' pay, in real terms, is as low as it was when I entered the House in 1964, and has been below that level, sometimes substantially, throughout the intervening period. Meanwhile, average real incomes in the country as a whole have risen more than 80 per cent. Even more dramatic: ministers in John Major's Cabinet are paid less than half those in Harold Wilson's.

In a risky industry, the remuneration of a finance director in a medium-sized public company may well exceed £250,000, and that of the chief executive may exceed £500,000. Compare that with politics (certainly a risky business, with its unsafe seats and often short ministerial careers): the remuneration of the chief executive of Great Britain plc, the Prime Minister, is £82,003.

The plain fact is that a combination of the failure of the Top Salaries Review Body, pressure from the media, and politicians' fear of critical publicity has led to MPs' and ministers' pay falling so low as to lead to incompetent government.

But press coverage of the last increase in MPs' pay showed how difficult it is to get the warning across to the public. The increase was almost universally, but incorrectly, headlined as being far in excess of inflation. The Commons has tried to find a way of dealing impartially with the problem, by linking Members' pay to that of a grade of civil servants so low that as a Minister, I never even came into contact with them.

Furthermore, sustained denigration in the press and media has reduced the status of MPs. The criticism of a few Members has been justified. But the overwhelming majority do a conscientious job, and despite recent reductions in unsocial hours, their average working week is much longer than would be acceptable in almost any other occupation. It is suggested that Members are not full-time MPs, because they have outside interests. I doubt whether even a handful work fewer hours at Westminster than a normal working week. And those with most outside interests are often among the most active on the floor and in committees.

Most of the controversy which gave rise to the Nolan Committee inquiry centred on whether MPs working as "consultants" were being paid to promote the interests of outside organisations or to advise them. But Nolan failed to make this important distinction clear. Indeed much of the report — admittedly produced within an excessively tight timetable — is confused. It is being left to a select committee to clarify. That committee's first report has significantly improved matters, establishing a Commissioner for Standards, a new Select Committee on Standards and Privileges, and stricter rules. But more remains to be done to reassure the public.

Tightening the rules should certainly help to repair some of the damage done to the status and reputation of MPs by a few highly publicised abuses. But restrictions on outside interests — which, as Nolan agrees, help to keep the Commons in touch — will inevitably make membership of the House less attractive than at present.

We seem to be returning to the days when one needed a private income to be able to afford to be a junior minister. Good ministers are now proposing to leave the House, and ministers who have lost office are departing as soon as a general election decently allows. Why should they remain, on a backbencher's salary, after leaving ministerial office, when they can earn far more outside?

Accordingly, the select committee dealing with the Nolan report should enable the House to take steps to restore the standing of MPs, while permitting them to have legitimate outside interests. Doubling MPs' pay and trebling ministers' pay may be enough to solve the problem, though it would severely reduce the position of 30 years ago in relation to incomes nationally. The first step must be to convince Members themselves to face the problem and the criticism which is sure to follow. The Nolan committee enjoys remarkable prestige as an impartial body, and the question of pay should be referred to it immediately, to counteract bad publicity.

At the same time all parties should seek a consensus on pay. If the Nolan committee were to report quickly, its proposals could be debated on the understanding that agreed increases would be implemented at the start of the next Parliament, regardless of which party forms the new government. Such an agreement would help to reduce the criticism that Members are voting for their own pay increase, since a large number of present MPs will not be in the next Parliament.

Sir Terence Higgins, MP for Warrington, will be retiring from the Commons next at the next election.

Without frills

THEY ARE changing the English at Buckingham Palace. The flowery prose of the daily Court Circular is to be pruned, because courtiers have decided it is unreadable.

No longer will guests at state functions enjoy "the honour of being received by the Queen": they will simply be received. Ambassadors to the Court of St James's are not to be described as "extraordinary and plenipotentiary" any more — just plain ambassadors.

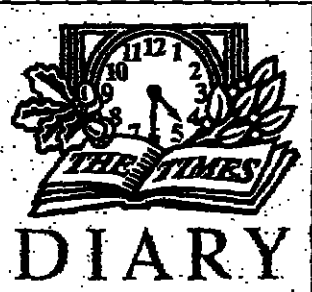
The changes, which also mean that the occupants of carriages in state processions will not be listed, are far from welcome in some quarters — as is made clear in a letter on the page opposite. Observers of court etiquette are also dismayed. "It's crazy," says Dame Barbara Cartland, the novelist and step-grandmother of the Princess of Wales. "If we are to have a Royal Family, the whole point is that it looks like a Royal Family. People long to see royalty looking grand. I can't think what they are doing changing the Court Circular."

Buckingham Palace says the changes are designed to make the circular more appealing. "It was thought that it would be more user-

friendly to change the wording," explained a spokeswoman. But royal biographer Lady Longford applauds the decision. "I think it's high time for a change," she said. And the Campaign for Plain English is overjoyed. "It's like a breath of fresh air," says its founder Chrissie Maher. "I'm ab-



Cartland: grand dame



olutely chuffed. The Prince of Wales has always been a fan of ours, you see."

Shut out

LORD ROMSEY, Prince Charles's cousin and close friend, is suffering a little local difficulty in Hampshire. He is already reeling from his Lloyd's losses, and bruised by the wrath of locals over his plans for gravel-extraction and a Tesco superstore on his Broadlands estate. Now he is under fire from nearby residents of Romsey, because he has cut down the opening of his home to visitors.

Business leaders claim his decision to open Broadlands to the public for just two months a year instead of six has hit trade, which relies on tourists. "Our profits are being scraped very thin, and some

people are angry about it," says a representative of the chamber of commerce. "Some businesses may even have to close. It really is very sad."

Vole position

THE CONFUSION which surrounds the correct pronunciation of Sir Charles Powell's name (it's "Fole") has now afflicted the man himself. At the Travellers Club on Tuesday night he pronounced his own name in the traditional way (rhyming with "towel"). There has clearly been too much talk in his household of General Colin Powell, whose presidential chances his wife Carla has been vociferously championing (and whose first name also causes difficulty).

Sir Charles said: "We had dinner with the general when he was over, but we didn't delve into our common ancestry. I just told my joke about him being the black sheep of the family."

● Talking of plain English, the latest instalment from *The Daily Telegraph's* memo-writing new deputy, Sarah Sands (at present sitting out her days on London's Evening Standard), pulls no punches. "The comment pages of Daily Telegraph unattractive," she scribbles. "OP-Ed ugly to look at."

Slabs of prose, and feeling work is done because you have got the pieces in. Leaders should be best in Fleet Street (right-hand page). Then — perhaps two or three leader page pieces like *The Times*."

Vulgar pad

WHAT IS good enough for the Duchess of York is good enough for the billionaire and sometime presidential candidate Ross Perot. He has been sniffing around the £8 million Bermuda mansion of impresario Robert Stigwood, where



"Eye of newt, toe of frog. M&S sandwich..."

Fergie recently repaired with her daughters to take stock of her life, and to feature in *Hello!* magazine.

The 24-acre ocean-side home was once put on the market for £16 million, and had no takers when offered for rent at £8,000 a day. Perot's office denies that he is in the market for it, but an agent handling the sale says he has expressed an interest.

Dolled up

KEN FOLLETT is doing all he can to help to enlist support for his lip-suck-loving wife, Barbara, who is Labour's candidate for Stevenage. He has become a regular on the telly at the Vauxhall Conference matches of Stevenage Borough Football Club, and has agreed to sponsor the club's manager for an unspecified sum.

His enthusiasm for the club is boundless. "He wears a scarf, hat and rosette, and comes to all the home matches and even some of the away games," says the man in sponsors, Paul Fairclough. "We are eighth in the league table, and for the first time have qualified for the first round of the FA Cup," he adds. "But I wouldn't say that is necessarily linked to Ken and Barbie."

P.H.S



THE WRONG CARD

It is asylum procedures, not refugees, which should be targeted

The granting of asylum to those with a "well-founded fear of persecution" is an ancient duty with roots stretching back some 3,500 years. With more than 45 million people currently displaced or in exile around the world, and millions more on the move searching for a better life, the system is everywhere under strain. Britain, with every other nation, has a sovereign right to distinguish between refugees and economic migrants. But under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees, the Government also has an obligation to treat each application for political asylum individually, on the basis of merit. Provisions in the new Asylum and Immigration Bill, awaited in next month's Queen's Speech, could put Britain in breach of that legal obligation. They could also sour race relations in this country.

Ministers clearly believe that the Bill will be electorally popular. In Blackpool last month, Peter Lilley clearly delighted in his Tory conference soundbite that "Britain should be a safe haven, not a soft touch" for refugees. This is populist, and xenophobic nonsense: Britain is anything but a "soft touch" for would-be refugees. The 1993 Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act already imposes conditions on asylum-seekers so stringent that they give the UN Human Rights Committee "cause for concern". Over the past decade, Britain has required ever tougher standards of proof of persecution, in the tacit hope that even genuine refugees will make some other country their destination. That appears to be the main purpose of the new Bill.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, hopes to deter asylum-seekers by issuing a "white list" of countries whose nationals would be presumed not to have a "well-founded fear of persecution". The targets are countries deemed to be "safe", but whose citizens still apply in large numbers for asylum in Britain, generally without success. Poland is an example that officials cite. Fair enough in theory: but in practice it is hard to see what impact such a list will have

unless all applicants are turned down on the basis of nationality alone; and if they are, Britain will have denied their legal right to individual hearings.

Even less defensible is Mr Lilley's proposal to deny social security benefits to those who have applied for political asylum after entering this country or who are waiting for their appeals to be heard. This is probably unlawful in terms of Article 31 of the 1951 Convention. It is certainly inhumane; and it is the wrong remedy for the problem it seeks to address.

At present, all asylum-seekers in Britain are entitled to 90 per cent of national levels of income support, and to housing benefit. If they are not allowed to work, they need this to survive. Because it takes an average of 32 weeks to process their cases, however, the result is that Mr Lilley's Department of Social Security pays out £250 million a year in benefits to people whose applications for asylum are eventually rejected. But the way to cut these costs is not to pauperise innocent refugees, and their children, along with illegal immigrants: it is to speed up Britain's sluggish asylum procedures.

The Home Office now has a backlog of around 50,000 cases, some stretching back more than 18 months. Despite staff increases, the number of cases dealt with has fallen in each of the past three years, from 35,000 in 1992 to 21,000 last year. Even allowing for fair hearings at appeal, no one should be left in uncertainty for so long; and no British taxpayer should be required to underwrite inefficiency in the Home Office.

The covert racism in these proposals must be apparent to Conservative Central Office; otherwise it would surely not have felt the need to prepare the defensive guidance notes to Tory MPs which were leaked this week. These are ugly cards for ministers to be playing and will be seen as such by a majority of the British public. John Major's instinct for justice, one of his most attractive traits as Prime Minister, should warn him against laying them before the House.

THE RIGHT SIGNALS

A pragmatic tale of oil, sovereignty and the Falklands

Thirteen years after the Falklands war, a British Prime Minister has at last met an Argentine President. The meeting was cordial — even warm — and John Major did the decent thing by inviting Carlos Menem to visit him in London next year.

Señor Menem is a man with whom Britain can do business, which is why his re-election in May last year was thought to augur well for Anglo-Argentine relations. Rich proof of his pragmatism — to which Britain has responded — lies in September's agreement on the exploration for oil deposits in waters which surround the Falkland Islands. Signed in New York, the oil agreement tips over the thin ice of sovereignty. Both Britain and Argentina preserve the intelligent *modus vivendi* which has marked bilateral dealings since diplomatic relations were restored in 1990: absolutely nothing in the agreement, it is asserted gravely by each side, impinges on sovereignty.

This assertion, of course, means one thing in Buenos Aires and another in London, which is why Señor Menem was attacked by his political opposition for consenting to the agreement and Mr Major was not. In Argentina, it means that claims to sovereignty have not been relinquished; in Britain, it simply means that the grip on sovereignty has not been loosened. The Argentine President's recent remarks, therefore — some of which have alarmed those paranoid about a "Malvinisation" by stealth of the Falklands — need to be read in the context of Argentina's fractious politics.

"It is the best achievement in 163 years, since our islands were usurped," Señor

Menem has declared vividly to his compatriots. Of course it is: they have, for the first time, a contractual stake in resources that lie in British waters, and a framework for joint exploration in those waters that might betray an overlap of jurisdiction. It does not follow, however, in spite of Señor Menem's domestic declaration to that effect, that the agreement "is the first real, legal step forward in Argentina's permanent struggle to regain sovereignty". It is nothing of the sort.

The Foreign Office is alert to the Argentine gallery, and to Señor Menem's need to play to it. The President has been criticised, in some quarters biterly, by the country's opposition parties. The former President, Raúl Alfonsín, accused Señor Menem of throwing Argentina's "inalienable sovereignty" over the islands into doubt; and the Frepaso alliance has dubbed the agreement a "step backwards".

Yet the pragmatic President in the Casa Rosada knows that his country desperately needs the revenue and employment that Falklands oil would generate: most onshore installations would have to be on the Argentine mainland. That is why Britain, too, has been prepared to concede to its erstwhile foe the right to participate in a process which promises to yield great profit. Naturally, it is better to share some of the profit than to fight over it — and thus risk getting none at all, for Britain as much as for Argentina. And if this can be achieved without compromising British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, the agreement will prove to have been a very good one indeed.

FATAL FRENCH ATTRACTION

Marianne and Nicholas Chauvin just love to go to Hollywood

Sharon Stone has been made a Chevalière of the French Order of Arts and Letters for services to world culture. As he pinned the pretty striped medal to her breast, the Minister of Culture, Philippe Douste-Blazy, described her as a *femme fatale* and an "absolute star". He thanked her for making daily life look a bit less routine.

Ms Stone is indeed one of Hollywood's brightest and most expensive shooting stars. In *Basic Instinct*, the film that launched her career, she made a post-feminist statement for world culture by teasing and bossing a roomful of hard law enforcement men. But that screenplay was famous for its adult and off-the-rails bisexuality and violence rather than its soft focus or substantial ambiguities. And the scene that lingered in the public memory and made the punning headlines was not some dying fade-out or grainy photograph with subtitles, but a fleeting shot that demonstrated that she was knickerless. In cinemas around the world, more pants could be heard than seen. On critical balance, the film was judged more characteristic of Sam Peckinpah and Quentin Tarantino than Truffaut or Renoir.

Her new film, *The Quick and the Dead*, in which Ms Stone plays a cowgirl John Wayne in skirts, has just bombed in London. But at least she has done more for culture than her fellow chevalier and co-star in the violent thriller, *The Specialist*, Sylvester Stallone. He chickened out of coming to Cannes because of an Arab bomb scare that

frightened away wimpish tourists from Europe. Ms Stone has been assiduous at Cannes, wearing dark glasses and Hermès headscarves and making herself available for the paparazzi. On receiving her award, she said: "I have two loves, the cinema and Paris. I've often been called cavalier; now you can call me Madame la Cavalière."

From *Les Enfants du Paradis* to *Jules et Jim*, the French cinema has always been the jolliest and most stylish source of cult films for art cinemas. France even held up the signing of Gatt for months just to impose quotas on foreign films and prevent the Hollywoodisation of the native product.

This was as hypocritical and counter-productive as the attempts of the Académie Française to keep French pristine. For the English-language and American films are trendy for the young in France. Sharon Stone embodies the fantasy of every Frenchman and most Frenchwomen, as they loved Errol Flynn and the plays of William Douglas-Horne. So Sharon is about to become the most popular name for French baby girls, as Kevin and Eric are for French boys.

We all need the French language, because it is beautifully logical, and French films, because they contrive to combine high art with basic instincts. But Anglo-Saxons and other aliens can take French intellectual and cultural snobbery with a smile, because under its skirt it is much the same as the rest of us. It just loves stars. So we can salute with approval France's latest cultural dame.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Questions on wisdom and fairness of lottery awards

From Mr David Powell

Sir, When the National Lottery started almost a year ago the sale of the first tickets was delayed by 48 hours, because it was felt in poor taste that this event should coincide with the nation's solemn Remembrance weekend (report, October 11, 1994).

Since then the Government has created a society that lives by gambling to such an extent that the British Legion now resorts to its own scratch cards to raise funds (letter, October 23). The scramble for instant unearned wealth is matched only by the unseemly spectacle of charities scrambling for hand-outs.

I suggest that on the eve of each Remembrance Day we have a token one day off a year from this national disaster.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID POWELL,
31 Bush Hill, Northampton,
October 24.

From Mr R. M. Langton

Sir, At this very early stage in the distribution of lottery cash to manifold charities I am quite happy to accept the judgment of the National Lottery Charities Board.

However, I am by no means convinced that the measures cited by the board's chief executive (report, October 24) to ensure that the cash received is actually used in the way intended and that the charities submit their accounts by their due date will be adequate to the task.

After some twenty years in the charitable field before my retirement, regrettably I have to say that I found many smaller charities ran more as the fiefs of the organisers rather than effectual engines of good works.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD LANGTON,
42 Chiswick Station,
Hartington Road, W4,
October 23.

From Councillor Bob Harris

Sir, The rising chorus of criticism that Londoners are receiving more than their share of lottery funds (report, October 17) is unfair and unjustified.

It has been prompted by Arts Council awards to national institutions, such as Sadlers Wells and the Royal Opera House, which happen to be based in central London. Yet I have heard nobody argue that the Churchills papers are to be bought for the benefit of the people of Cambridge, where those documents reside. Awards to national institutions, wherever based, should not be confused with those to projects for local communities.

Baptism choice

From Mr Mervin Spearing

Sir, The Archbishop of Canterbury criticises those clergy who refuse to baptise the children of parents who do not attend church (report, October 19). The answer, surely, is to restrict baptism to adults. Can it be right to baptise a baby into a religion or denomination and then tell him or her "You are a Christian", "You are a Catholic" or "You are a Protestant"? A child in Britain should be free to choose his own religion or way of life.

Might Parliament consider a Bill to prohibit acts of religious, political or sectarian ritual on children? I write not as a sceptic but as a practising Christian.

Yours faithfully,
MERVIN SPEARING,
Brunton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Bus industry review

From the Minister for Local Transport and Road Safety

Sir, I am becoming slightly confused as to what, in news terms, constitutes a "review" these days. Not, surely, the revelation that the Government is consulting on and reviewing the detailed operation of the bus industry following deregulation ten years ago ("Days of bus deregulation are numbered", October 24). It's now more than a year since I formed a working group to look at these issues (with operators themselves, local authorities and others) and I've spoken about them publicly on numerous occasions. None of this suggests "re-regulation" of the industry as your article implies.

There is widespread, and — given participants' varying political standpoints — sometimes surprising, agreement that the British bus industry has blossomed since deregulation. No one, least of all the Government, would want to jeopardise that. But there is also agreement that there are sensible measures that could smooth the operation of services in some areas, reduce town-centre congestion and pollution, and ensure a consistently higher standard.

It is these issues that the working group is looking at — not "re-regulation" in any sense that would be recognised as such, and certainly not "Of bus", for which there is remarkably little enthusiasm on all sides.

Yours etc,
STEVEN NORRIS,
The Department of Transport,
Great Minister House,
76 Marsham Street, SW1,
October 24.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

An early analysis of the regional distribution of funds shows no bias so far in favour of Londoners. The benchmark for allocation must surely be need, in which case the capital should receive more than it has done. Although the "gold-paved streets" myth lives on, the reality is that London contains 14 of the 20 most deprived local authority areas in England, and higher average unemployment than all but one English region.

The Association of London Government, which represents all 33 local authorities in London, is holding a seminar on Friday to assist London boroughs and other bidders in the capital to make the most of the funding opportunities offered by the lottery and ensure that Londoners do not miss out.

Yours sincerely,
R. C. HARRIS
(Arts & Leisure Chair),
Association of London Government,
36 Old Queen Street, SW1,
October 23.

From Mr David Hobman

Sir, The trustees of the National Lottery Charities Board seem to have cast their net quite widely and well in their first allocation. There is no way in which they can reflect all preferences and prejudices in distributing the funds at their disposal.

In the 1960s there was some talk about introducing the American-type "United Way" appeals in this country, whereby targets for concerted annual fundraising efforts are set in each community once agreement has been reached about the amount the participating organisations can each reasonably expect to receive.

Under this scheme the names of the beneficiaries were printed on the gift forms, so that donors could mark the good causes they supported, and avoid those of which they didn't approve. But, as a director of the Chicago fund explained, "it doesn't matter a damn where they put their ticks". The allocation was in other hands.

Predictably, the most successful fundraisers kept well clear of the United Way. In an inherently competitive world where people respond to causes rather than concepts they still found it more profitable to go it alone.

Yours etc,
DAVID HOBMAN (Director,
Age Concern England, 1971-87),
Robinswood, George's Lane,
Storrington, West Sussex,
October 24.

From the Chief Executive of apa

Sir, The recent barrage of criticism about lottery money going to "polit-

The Bar and legal aid

From Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC,
Chairman of the General Council of the Bar

Sir, Access to justice and the quality of justice are the Bar's primary concern over the Government's proposals on legal aid, not that under the proposals barristers would lose the right to negotiate their own fees ("Mackay to drop plan for cap on legal aid budget", October 23).

Barristers do not negotiate their own legal aid fees now. They are either fixed by regulation or determined by government officials and judicial officers whose job is to ensure that the rates and charges are reasonable.

The proposed cash-limited budgets and block contracts not only risk denying people who need it help because the budget has run out but fail to contain sufficient safeguards to make

cally correct" and unworthy causes cannot go unchallenged. A number of Tory MPs have remarked that "drug abusers" should not benefit from lottery funds.

This organisation is a national charity working with people with drug and alcohol problems. Some of the people we see are children as young as eight years old. Fundraising for our cause is difficult because we have to overcome the kind of prejudicial views we are hearing voiced.

It is extremely important that uncudly causes like ours have equal access to lottery money because drug and alcohol misuse is no longer a marginal problem — in the next few years young people who have not tried drugs will be a minority group. Over half of all 16-year-olds have tried an illegal drug. Drug misuse knows no barriers of class, geography, gender or age.

Rehabilitation of problem drug-users is an important part of our work, as are prevention and education programmes aimed at young people. Fundraising represents 20 per cent of our annual income. Those of us working in this field have every right to be considered for lottery money alongside other worthy and deserving causes.

People with drug problems have a right to dignity and must not be denied the opportunity to get help because of the misplaced bigotry of a few prominent individuals.

Yours,
PETER MARTIN,
Chief Executive, apa,
67-69 Cowcross Street,
Smithfield, EC1,
October 24.

From Mr Luke FitzHerbert

Sir, Your report (October 24) reinforces a common misunderstanding when it refers to half the lottery money going to "tiny charities with an annual income of less than £20,000". A charity with £20,000 a year is in fact a rather big one. According to the Chief Charity Commissioner two thirds of all registered charities have less than £10,000 a year.

Charities are typically local, with incomes as likely to be in hundreds as in thousands of pounds, no paid staff and no premises of their own. They are all eligible for lottery funding, and so far they are getting a small proportion of its proceeds, not the large one you report.

Yours,
LUKE FITZHERBERT,
Director of Social Change,
24 Stephenson Way, NW1,
October 24.

sure the standard of service is kept up.

The few limited suppliers will have an incentive to avoid spending money so they can maximise their own profit. This may include giving over-hasty advice to litigants to settle their claims too cheaply or failing to instruct senior and experienced counsel when the justice of the case demands it.

The Bar has put forward proposals to maintain the best features of the legal aid scheme principles whilst controlling the budget. They include, for example, reform of the so-called "merits test", so that legal aid is focused more on cases of real merit with prospects of a worthwhile recovery.

Yours faithfully,
PETER GOLDSMITH,
Chairman,
The General Council of the Bar,
3 Bedford Row, WC1,
October 23.

Judicial review

From Dr Kenneth Gulleford

Sir, The growing debate on the subject of judicial review (report, later editions, October 16) could be much clarified. In English law it means, without question, "judicial review of administrative action": that is to say it is a valuable check on abuses of executive power, as for instance not adhering to procedures laid down by Parliament.

Once it begins to mean, as the judges seem to be saying, that it is a power to review the legislation of an elected Parliament then it is time for the

University pay

From the Chief Executive of the Universities and Colleges Employers Association

Sir, We are reminded by Mr Neil Macfarlane of the Association of University and College Lecturers (letter, October 17; also letter, October 9) that the pay of schoolteachers has increased in line with average earnings elsewhere because it is determined by an independent pay review body. He proposes that the pay of lecturers in higher education should be decided in the same way.

This used to be an attractive idea, but last year the Government declined to fund the teachers' pay award in full. That resulted in 5,000 redundant teachers and larger class sizes.

I don't imagine that the members of Mr Macfarlane's association are prepared to pay that sort of price.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN ROUSE, Chief Executive,
Universities and Colleges
Employers Association,
Kirkman House,
12-14 Whitfield Street, W1.

A lesser grandeur in affairs of State

From Mr Gordon J. Collier

Sir, After digesting the dreadful chronicle of disasters befalling society today, one of the great comforts of life is to read the Court Circular, with its reassuring tones that the country continues with long-established traditions of order.

I love to read that "His Excellency Mr So & So was received by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Wherever to the Court of St James's".

With dismay I notice the delightful words Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary have recently been dropped. I appeal for the restoration of the old order.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON J. COLLIER,
9 New Cottages,
Hexton, Nr Hitchin, Hertfordshire,
October 24.

Popular sculpture

From Mr Malcolm B. Stathers

Sir, How refreshing it was to see that dignity and enduring little sculpture of the dove by Rosalind Stracey (photograph, October 21) which is to go to the winner of your Preacher of the Year competition. What a pleasant change from the stainless steel bath-plugs, formaldehyde, bricks, baked bean tins and old tyres which so often figure in your pages as "art". Congratulations both to The Times for the competition and Ms Stracey for her creativity.

If Richard Morrison ("Public art? More like a private joke", same date) wants to see "a successful piece of public art" he has to go no further than Trafalgar Square where Landseer's lions appear to be much loved by the public. Perhaps in today's enlightened age, however, public approval is no longer an acceptable criterion.

His article raised valid issues. There should be more public competition, and since sculpture is not an inexpensive business, accountability.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM STATHERS,
Wildwood,
Weydown Road, Haslemere, Surrey,
October 24.

'Prejudice' perks

From Mr Michael Dunton

Sir, I was somewhat surprised to read ("Enigmatic Darcy is out of reach", October 24) that "pictures commissioned for costume dramas are generally given, once they are no longer needed, to the subject or to the programme producer".

The latest portrait to be given away is that of Colin Firth as the BBC's Fitzwilliam Darcy, hero of *Pride and Prejudice*. The recipient, producer Sue Birwistle, is no doubt delighted with her acquisition.

However, as a licence-payer and therefore "part-purchaser" of the portrait, might I suggest that it is put up for auction and the proceeds given to the forthcoming BBC Children in Need appeal.

As a BBC spokesman said: "I expect a lot of people would like the chance to make a bid for it."

Yours faithfully,
M. DUNTON,
94 Stamford Avenue,
Springfield,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire,
October 24.

Prisoner's letter

From Mr Eric Earnshaw

Sir, This morning I see that, as usual, each letter is headed by the correspondent's title and in some cases his qualifications. The exception is the letter (a very interesting one, incidentally) from one of the escapees from Parkhurst, now imprisoned in HMP Frankland. It is simply headed "From Matthew Williams".

To be incarcerated in that dreadful place at Durham, I would have thought, would be sufficient punishment for anyone without the added affront to one's self-respect of having *The Times* omit one's title. You owe Mr M. V. Williams an apology.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC EARNSHAW,
Sursum Corda, West Witton,
Nr Leyburn, North Yorkshire,
October 23.

Knotty problem

From Mr Tony McCoy O'Grady

Sir, I was intrigued by the report (October 24) of the convoluted process involved in returning a pair of spectacles to a British Airways passenger. It was only after I had turned the page that a thought struck me... while we know that all small boys carry mysterious objects in their trouser pockets, why did an airline pilot have what must have been a very long (12-15 feet perhaps) piece of string in his pocket? I would hate to think of the airline emergency in which a piece of string that long might be called for.

Yours faithfully,
TONY MCCOY O'GRADY,
186 Captain's Road,
Kilmage, Dublin 12,
October 24.

OBTUARIES

SIR PETER LAZARUS

Sir Peter Lazarus, KCB, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Transport, 1982-85, died from cancer on October 19 aged 69. He was born on April 2, 1926.

PETER LAZARUS helped to shape the transport policies of successive governments for more than 30 years. From the dawn of the motorway age in the 1950s, through the introduction of parking meters and traffic wardens to electrified railways and the privatisation of National Freight — his was one of the prime influences behind Whitehall policy.

Ernest Marples, Barbara Castle, William Rodgers, Norman Fowler, David Howell and Nicholas Ridley were among the Transport Ministers he worked with — his partnership with Ridley being the last such relationship and perhaps the closest.

Yet, despite his manifest part in changing the face of Britain, the programme in which he took the greatest pride lay perhaps outside the periphery of Whitehall. This was the rebuilding of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood in northwest London. Built in 1925 opposite the Grace Gates at Lord's Cricket Ground, the synagogue was bombed 15 years later. Services were held across the road at Lord's while it was repaired.

Its foundations, however, had been seriously weakened and in 1984 a builder's report outlined the need for wholesale restoration. Lazarus, who was about to start a second term as chairman of the synagogue's council, launched a multimillion-pound programme which led to a completely new building on the site.

Its success is still largely attributed to him and the administrative skills he brought to bear, with the result that leading liberal Jews in Britain now see it as his unofficial monument. His last appearance there was on the Day of Atonement last month, when he read the entire Book of Jonah to the assembled congregation.

Peter Esmond Lazarus was born in Bayswater, west London, the son of a metal merchant in the City. From Westminster College he won an open scholarship to Wadham College, Oxford, to read Mods and Greats. He went up to Wadham in 1948, after serving for three years in the Royal Artillery — but stayed in Oxford for only four terms. He left without taking



his degree after already being accepted for the Civil Service and entered the Ministry of Transport in 1949.

He was secretary of the London and Home Counties Traffic Advisory Committee between 1953 and 1957, then private secretary to the Transport Minister Ernest Marples, 1961-62, and was promoted to under-secretary six years later. Between 1969 and 1971 he also served as chairman of the Association of the First Division of the Civil Service — the senior civil servants' trade union.

He left the department in 1970 to spend two years in the Treasury, where

he made a highly favourable impression and where he might well have remained. But the Transport Ministry was reluctant to let him go and, after three years at the Department of the Environment as a deputy secretary, he returned to his old ministry in 1976. Succeeding to the top job as Permanent Secretary in 1982, he finally left Whitehall in 1985. He was appointed KCB that same year.

Lazarus took on several part-time jobs in his retirement, principally as a director of the Manchester Ship Canal Company and as a member of the Civil Aviation Authority. He also chaired

both the Committee for Monitoring Agreements on Tobacco Advertising and Sponsorship for a number of years and the *Herald of Free Enterprise* Disaster Fund — established after the ferry foundered off Zeebrugge eight years ago. He also belonged to the RAC advisory committee and in private life attended symphony concerts and the opera.

But his chief interest outside Whitehall remained his work as a leading member of British Jewry. After serving twice as chairman of the St John's Wood Synagogue Council, 1972-75 and 1987-92, he was made a president in 1994 and in 1987 accepted the post of commandant of the Jewish Lads and Girls Brigade.

He was essentially a serious, private man who always looked slightly older than he was. Stocky, bespectacled and prematurely bald, and rarely seen outside a three-piece suit, he looked like the archetypal senior civil servant and could seem an intimidating figure to young subordinates.

But, in spite of his sober expression and demeanour, Peter Lazarus had a lively sense of humour and enjoyed being teased. He liked to say that he used only red tape of the very highest quality. Nor was there any doubting his ability. His clear and incisive mind and immense energy meant that he joined swiftly ever committee that he joined.

He was also a civil servant who had quite strong opinions of his own. Although a Conservative, with a capital "C" as well as a small one, he was unhappy about the present Government's privatisation plans for the railways and actively resented the low level of subsidies provided for the railways by Margaret Thatcher's administration.

In his retirement, he wrote several trenchant letters to *The Times* expressing his views and making clear his belief in a properly funded public service for rail commuters. He also used the memorial service for the late Sir Robert Reid, former chairman of British Rail, to make similar points.

Peter Lazarus was very fond of, and knowledgeable about, the life and verse of the poet Robert Browning. He was a devoted family man.

He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, whom he married at the age of 24 and with whom he celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary four years ago, and by their three sons.

WILLIAM DICKSON

William Dickson, finance director of Granada Television, 1976-82, died on October 22 aged 72. He was born on November 21, 1922.

FOR two decades William Dickson presided over the financial affairs of Granada Television, working in close partnership with Sir Denis Forman, who was first managing director and later chairman. It was largely owing to Dickson that Granada became the independent television company not only most renowned for its programmes but also, by a comfortable margin, the most profitable.

William Dickson was born in Southwick in Sunderland and remained a Wearside at heart throughout his life. He was educated at Mountwearmouth School and early in the war joined the RAF. On demobilisation he decided to

become a chartered accountant and served his articles with the firm of Laverick Walton.

Once qualified, he joined Peat Marwick and in the course of his duties he found himself carrying out the Granada audit. Here he was spotted by the then finance director and was recruited as his number two in February 1956, three months before Granada first went on the air, taking over as number one in 1962. He was appointed company secretary in 1968 and finance director in 1976, which post he held until his retirement in 1982.

Within Granada Bill Dickson installed a system of simple but effective controls which, coupled with an unrelenting campaign against waste and an ability to detect and scotch any tendencies towards extravagance, ensured a tightly-run ship. But

he was not one of those finance directors who believe that cost-cutting and instant profitability are the only road to success. He was "a long-termist", always ready to write off large sums against a *World in Action* project that never reached the screen, or to encourage expenditure on any form of experimental programme in the belief that only by spending money in this way could Granada retain the freshness and vigour of its programme output.

He supported with equanimity the investment of more than £2 million in the series *The Jewel in the Crown* before it had gained any outside sponsorship and which would have led to calamitous losses had not an American oil company agreed to underwrite the production.

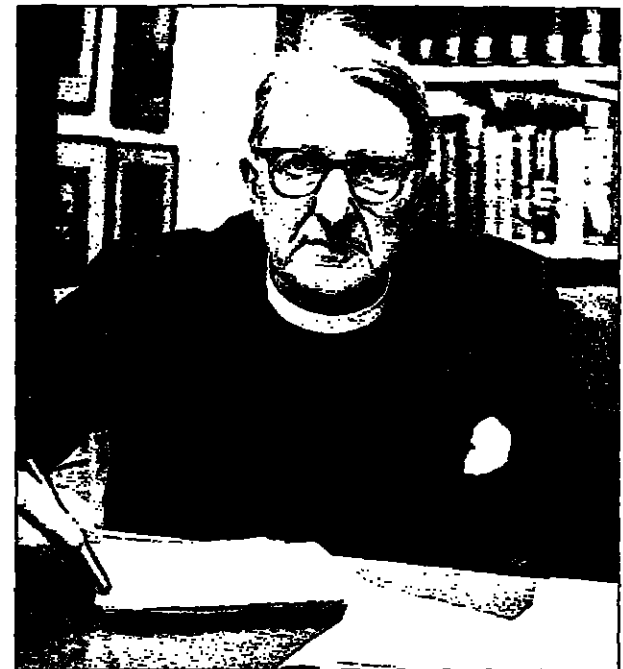
By the mid-1960s he had become a central figure in the financial affairs of the industry, chairing several committees and acting as a consultant and adviser to the IBA on matters such as the Television Levy. Under his influence many improvements were made in the system which were favourable to the companies collectively, and never least to Granada. All of this he did in an open and direct style which won him many friends.

It is rare in any company for a finance director to double as an honorary personnel officer but this is what Bill Dickson became. Any member of the staff with a financial or personnel problem was likely to find their way to his office, where they could be certain of a sympathetic hearing and some sound practical advice. He retired at the age of 60 in 1982 and devoted the rest of his life to charitable works.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

THE VERY REV RONALD SELBY WRIGHT

The Very Rev Ronald Selby Wright, CVO, Minister of the Canongate, Edinburgh, 1936-77, and Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1972-73, died on October 24 aged 87. He was born on June 12, 1908.



ONCE very much a household name, Ronald Selby Wright was a Scottish churchman who, especially during the years of the Second World War, gained a wide celebrity from his broadcasts on religious themes. He became known, along with Canon W. H. Elliott of St Michael's, Chester Square, as the "radio padre". His editing of a series of bestselling books, entitled *Asking Them Questions*, drew forth answers on theological and ethical issues from a considerable range of thinkers.

For all except a very brief period as an assistant minister at Glasgow Cathedral and wartime service as an army chaplain, Edinburgh was the scene of his life and he came to have a very special place in the religious life of the city.

Ronald William Vernon Selby Wright was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Melville College and at Edinburgh University, which gave him an honorary DD in 1956. He was student-assistant minister of St Giles Cathedral, and then from 1936 to retirement in 1977 minister of the historic Canongate, the Kirk of Holyroodhouse, further down the Royal Mile.

His very special ministry

was as warden of the boys' club successively linked with the Cathedral of St Giles and the Canongate, an office which he was to occupy for fifty years from 1927. He had begun the work as a young student and quickly discovered a genius for work with boys (his radio work owed much to his listening to the kind of questions asked in his club). For many years he was a very welcome visitor to several English public schools. He was also for two separate periods — 1957-60 and 1979-83 — chaplain to Fettes College, and always kept in close touch with the life of the school.

Tony Blair is said to have come under his influence in

the 1960s when, as a Fettes schoolboy, he went as a voluntary helper to one of the summer camps regularly run by Selby Wright for the Canongate Boys' Club. He was recently recalled by his spiritual mentor as being "a boy of very strong principles".

During his long life Selby Wright received a number of honours. He was a chaplain or extra chaplain to the Queen from 1961 until his death, and was appointed CVO in 1968. He was chaplain to the Governor of Edinburgh Castle from 1937 to 1991. In 1972, rather belatedly, he was elected Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He was unmarried.

EMILE JONAISAINT

Emile Jonaissant, former President of Haiti, died on October 24 aged 82. He was born in 1913.

A FRAIL puppet manipulated by a ruthless military regime, Emile Jonaissant played the role of President of Haiti for the brief period from May 11 1994 to September 17 of that same year. After years of corruption, repression and inequality in Haiti under the dictatorship of the Duvaliers — first Papa Doc and then, for a further 15 years, Baby Doc — ending only in 1986, Haiti had gone through several attempts at civilian democracy, each being terminated after a brief tenure by a military coup.

The most recent such seizure was in September 1991 when a coup d'état by Lieutenant-General Raoul Cédras forced President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to flee his country. The United States and the Organisation of American States responded with a prolonged but largely ineffectual trade embargo, but in May 1994 Cédras made an effort to capitulate to democratic pressures by his nomination to the presidency of Jonaissant.

This move was greeted with disdain and protest by the Clinton Administration. In April 1994 a UN resolution was passed which led to Jonaissant stepping down and a bloodless return to democracy.

Emile Jonaissant was born in Port-au-Prince. He was a mulatto, though his skin was definitely on the side of dark. In a country where degrees of negritude are closely observed, his privileged upbringing and close and profitable associations with a white élite were felt by a largely black underclass to amount to a betrayal.

Trained as an attorney, he began his political career as a senator during the 1950s military dictatorship of General Paul Magloire. It was a period of instability. Haiti's future was clouded by rising turbulence in the Dominican Re-

public and by the growing appeal of Castro in Cuba.

Although Jonaissant withdrew from politics during the 1957-88 Duvalier dictatorship, he returned to the political stage after Baby Doc fled. In 1986, at the age of 63, he became president of the constituent assembly, which drafted a new Haitian constitution. This was ratified in March 1987. Yet it was this constitution which Jonaissant was later to subvert.

In 1990 Jean-Bertrand Aristide, leader of the National Front for Change and Democracy, won a free presidential election and launched

National Assembly witnessed a cortege of Land Cruisers draw screeching to a halt, and a decrepit old man, badly shaken by a rough ride, was virtually carried into the building by military henchmen.

Jonaissant never gave the impression of relishing his role, nor were any allegations of financial corruption ever substantiated. Yet as de facto President he was nonetheless responsible in part for the continuation of brutal human rights abuses and for the perversion of his nation's constitution.

Instilled with the deep-rooted superstitions of his people, he believed himself astrologically destined to govern. Under his presidency Haiti's poorly equipped and inadequately trained army was expanded by a rapid recruitment programme. In May 1994 he announced a drastic extension of his powers, declaring that as well as the presidency he would also take on the role of Prime Minister.

Even as the threat of a US military invasion loomed, Jonaissant remained adamant. He accused President Clinton of threatening Haiti for domestic political reasons. In response to the passing of a UN resolution to back the use of force to topple the Haitian Government, Jonaissant invoked voodoo spirits and declared a state of siege. "We can't back off," he proclaimed.

On September 17, with a US-led multinational force poised to attack, a delegation headed by Jimmy Carter arrived in a last-ditch effort to persuade the regime to step down. Jonaissant capitulated the next day. US forces landed without resistance and Aristide was eventually restored to the presidency.

Jonaissant lived his last months quietly. He kept a low profile, yet seemed unrepentant. Haitians recognised that he had only played the *pape de payaso*, the role of the clown, and they bore him few grudges. The Americans realised he was no threat.



an anti-corruption campaign intended to strip power from remaining Duvalier supporters and purge his country of military might. Jonaissant, a member of the wealthy élite, would have represented all that the young populist Aristide opposed. In 1991 he was ordered to retire from the Supreme Court, ostensibly because of his age. But that same year Cédras commandeered political power and Aristide was deposed.

Jonaissant was already an old man when he was nominated President of Haiti in 1994. Many remember the day he was sworn in. Crowds gathered outside the Haitian

Palgrave has laid all lovers of poetry and all who rejoice in seeing the lessons of appreciation and discrimination well taught. "The Golden Treasury" (which, by the way, has given the name to a whole series of anthologies and selections with which the house of Macmillan has enriched the bookshelves of the present generation) was followed by the "Children's Treasury" — a delightful collection — and by the "Treasury of English Sacred Poetry." To the task of compiling the latter volume the editor brought rather a special qualification, for he numbered among his original contributions to poetic literature a little book of hymns, brought out in 1867.

Of Mr. Palgrave's career, apart from his literary achievements, there is not a great deal to tell. Born in 1824, the eldest son of Sir Francis Palgrave he went from Charterhouse to Oxford as a scholar of Balliol, obtained a first-class in *Literae Humaniores* in 1847, and was elected to a Fellowship at Exeter College. In 1846, before taking his degree, the brilliant young Oxford man became one of Mr. Gladstone's assistant-private secretaries, and in 1850 he was appointed vice-principal of the Training School at Kneller Hall. Here he stayed from 1850 until 1855, when he became an examiner and an assistant secretary in the Education Office. This post he held for close on 30 years, and when at length he gained more leisure it was only to devote himself to the duties of Professor of Poetry at Oxford.

Mr. Palgrave married a daughter of the late Mr. Milnes-Gaskell, M.P.

DEATH OF MR. PALGRAVE.

We regret to announce that the illness of Mr. Francis Turner Palgrave, which we mentioned last week, terminated fatally on Sunday. Mr. Palgrave was seized in London ten days ago with an attack of paralysis of the brain, and from the first it was feared that he would scarcely recover. He was in his 74th year.

In losing Mr. Palgrave the world of letters is the poorer for a man who, while not himself a great poet, had done more than anyone else of his time, with the exception of Mr. Matthew Arnold, to guide the public taste to what is best in poetic literature. His own verse was graceful and scholarly rather than impassioned or powerful, and though it would certainly have marked him out as a writer of some distinction and genuine poetic feeling, would never have gained for him the position he attained by other means. This, indeed, it is hardly necessary to say, was his labour in making the beautiful selection from the songs and lyrics of English poets, known as "The Golden Treasury." The first part of this work, published in 1861, is universally known as the most masterly anthology of its kind that has been made, while the second series, published only within the last fortnight, engaged Mr. Palgrave's careful attention up to almost the last days of his life. The original "Golden Treasury" more than deserved its title and has won the widest appreciation and fame. It has gone through many editions and is still held in as much regard as

ON THIS DAY

October 26, 1897

Palgrave's *Golden Treasury*, perhaps the best-known anthology of poetry in the English language, is more than 100 years old. Recent editions have included works by many modern poets.

ever. This work, even had he published nothing else, would have cemented his reputation for taste and judgment, though it should, nevertheless, be remembered that he enjoyed the great advantage of Tennyson's constant help and advice. We know from the lately-published *Life and Letters* of the great Laureate how appreciative and discriminating a critic he was of the poetry of his predecessors, and it is well to bear this in mind when complaint is made that "The Golden Treasury" contained too much Wordsworth and some not of the finest quality. But this first venture in the difficult field of selection was far from being the only debt under which Mr.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Britain's £1bn tourist winners

SPENDING at UK tourist attractions topped £1 billion for the first time last year, it was announced this week. Improvements at well-established attractions and the arrival of new tourist sites helped the 1994 spending figure to increase by 5 per cent over 1993, a survey by the UK's four national tourist boards in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland showed.

The top attraction charging admission last year was Alton Towers theme park in Staffordshire, which

BY PETER WOODMAN

had 3.01 million visitors, many attracted by the £12 million the owners spent on new facilities. The park increased its lead over Madame Tussaud's waxworks museum in London, which had 2.63 million visitors in 1994, and also over the Tower of London, which attracted 2.40 million people. London Zoo, saved from closure by Middle Eastern money, saw a 21 per cent increase in the number of visitors to 1.04 million.

Extended opening hours and new galleries helped the National Portrait Gallery in London to increase the numbers of visitors by 71 per cent to 1.04 million. The 50th anniversary of D-Day last year helped the D-Day Museum in Portsmouth, Hampshire, to more than double the number of its visitors to 170,934.

Dover Museum's decision to offer a combined entrance ticket to cover both the museum and the White Cliffs Experience led to a 249 per cent increase in tourist numbers to 141,000.

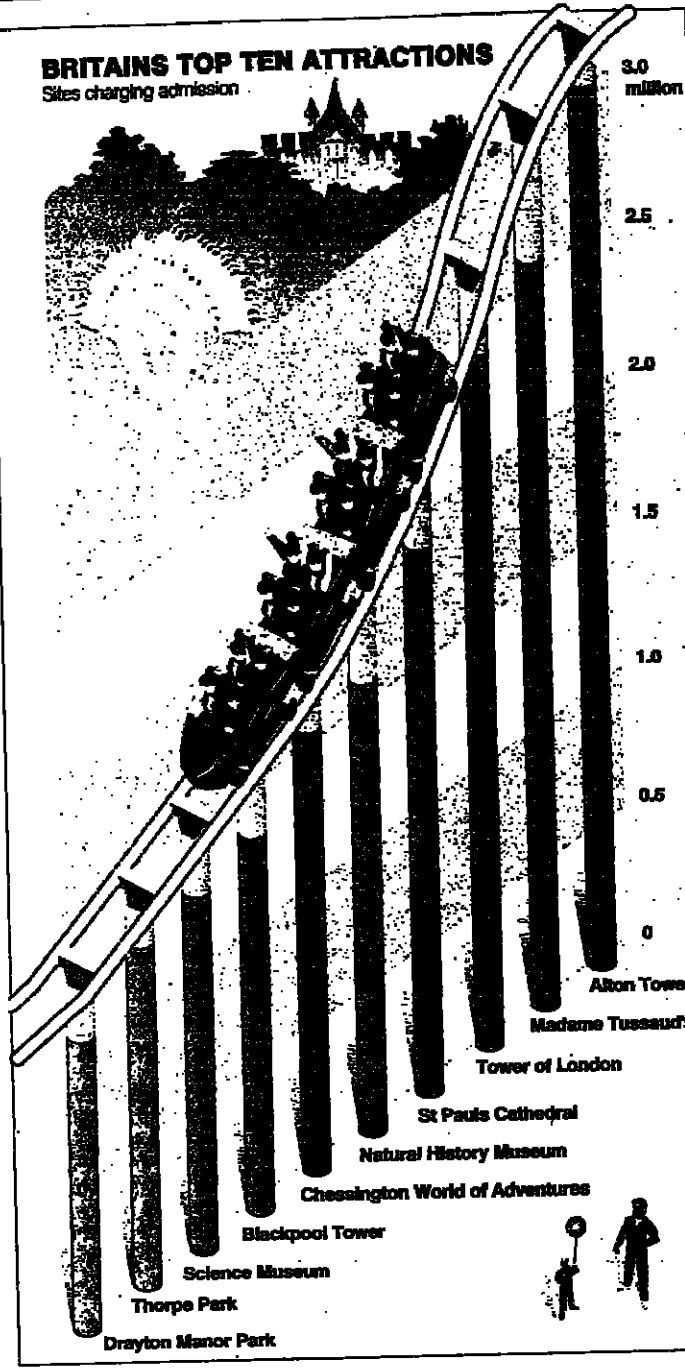
There were also big rises in the number of tourists visiting Stonehenge, Windsor Castle, Blackpool Tower and Thorpe Park in Surrey. People were only too glad to "go through customs" at the Anything to Declare Customs and Excise National Museum in Liverpool, which attracted 312,000 visitors in its first year.

The top free admission attraction was once again Blackpool Pleasure Beach (7.2 million). The top garden was Tropical World in Leeds, which increased its number of visitors by 13 per cent to 1.23 million.

There were 387 million visits to tourist attractions in 1994 - 2 per cent up on the 1993 figure. Almost three-quarters of the visits were accounted for by just six categories - historic properties (79 million visits), museums (60 million), country parks (57 million), leisure parks (40.5 million), wildlife attractions (23 million) and art galleries (20.5 million).

SUCCESS OF BRITISH TOURISM

- The average adult admission charge in 1994 was £2.32. Prices ranged from £1.72 at museums to £5.47 at leisure parks.
- For the fifth year running, farm attractions achieved the fastest growth rate in visits - up 6 per cent to 8.3 million.
- Overseas visitors accounted for 19 per cent of all visits to attractions in 1994.
- Children make up 32 per cent of all visitors and prefer trips to farms and leisure parks rather than gardens and workplaces.
- An estimated 89,000 people are employed by UK tourist attractions, with the help of 55,000 volunteers.
- The average number of annual visitors to leisure parks was 533,000 and total visits to these parks were up 3 per cent.
- The 84 attractions opening for the first time last year had a total of 2.42 million visitors. At least 47 per cent of all attractions have opened since 1980: 26 per cent of attractions were full for at least one day in 1994 compared with 24 per cent in 1993.
- Top country park last year was Strathclyde Country Park in Scotland with 4.3 million visitors.
- North Yorkshire Moors Railway topped the steam railways list with 250,000 visitors.
- Top attractions for overseas visitors last year were historic properties, followed by wildlife sites.



In the steps of Pavarotti

THE Grosvenor Hotel in Chester is offering a £30 per person special Sunday night rate - instead of the usual price of £70 - until Christmas. To qualify, guests have to stay on Saturday night as well. The hotel recently had opera singer Luciano Pavarotti as a guest and provided the catering from its Michelin-starred restaurant for his private jet. His order: consommé, lobster, breast of chicken, D'Auphinoise potatoes and Häagen-Dazs ice-cream. Details: 01244 324024.

□ QUEENS Moat Houses has introduced advanced telephone check-in at all its Moat House and County hotels. Guests with a reservation can telephone up to 30 minutes before arrival, quoting their credit-card details. On arrival, they receive their key from a special desk and go straight to their room. Details: 0600 213 214.

□ PRIVATE fax machines have now been installed in all 156 bedrooms at Ritz Hotel Ritz in Madrid. Guests get a personal number to ensure privacy, and a delay feature to stop receiving faxes at night. The hotel has also just reopened its bar after being closed for 11 years. The new bar was designed by architect Alain Mertens. Details: 0800 40 40 40.

□ THE Imperial Hotel in Torquay is holding special language tuition courses, including French, German and Italian, starting next January. Morning classes are followed by afternoon lectures on the food, wine and culture of the country concerned.

The price is £100 for one week, with hotel costing £90 per night per person extra. Details: 01803 294301.

□ VISITORS to New Zealand's Marlborough wine region - which includes vineyards such as Cloudy Bay and Montana - can stay in a new luxury hotel, The Marlborough. Each room is named after a local winery and the minibar is stocked with its wines. Details: 01827 718181.

□ LONDON's Ritz Hotel is offering a new Jazz Brunch (to a harp and flute ensemble) on Sunday mornings until 1.30pm in its Palm Court Lounge. The new menu, costing £19.50 per person, ranges from traditional English breakfast to sliced beef fillet with lobster. Details: 0171-493 8181. The Park Lane Hotel in London also this week launched a special food and wine promotion from the Burgundy region. Wines are supplied by Maison Louis Latour. The event lasts until November 19. Details: 0171-499 6321.

□ THE new £17 million Chiva-Sum International Health Resort Hotel in Thailand's coastal town of Hua-Hin is offering a special introductory package for UK visitors until the end of March next year of £1,299 per person for four nights, including flights and health facilities. The resort, which claims to be Asia's first dedicated health spa, bases its health philosophy on Buddhist teachings. Details from: Silverbird Travel: 0181-875 9090.

DAVID CHURCHILL

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City breaks enjoy a boom

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE opening of Eurostar rail services from Waterloo has turned Brussels and Bruges into two of the most popular and romantic cities in Europe. More and more Britons, particularly couples, are taking short weekend breaks away from their children.

Brussels has leapt to fourth place from eighth in the top ten table of most-visited cities, according to Cresta Holidays, the market leader, and Bruges is now in sixth place compared with 14th last year.

The boom in short city breaks, which began two years ago, is continuing and more than 500,000 people are this year expected to spend two or three nights, mainly at weekends, in cities from New York to Istanbul.

In an attempt to cash in on the growing popularity of short breaks, Thomson is offering a range of excursions and attractions, including an audience with the Pope for £17 a head, a tour of the Paris sewers for £4 a person and a balloon ride over Tuscany from Siena — the price to be decided at the time depending on the number of people booking and weather conditions.

Such excursions are proving particularly attractive, but they are shunned by Cresta,

which believes that its clients would prefer to be entirely free to make their own arrangements. Steve Kimber, the managing director of Cresta, says: "Most of our customers are business travellers, who are used to getting around on their own. We certainly would not dream of taking them in a

Thomson disagrees. "There are many concerts, operas, exhibitions and events that are much better booked with guaranteed seats," a Thomson spokesman says.

"We are certainly not trying to 'Benidormise' the cities by packaging them as we would a seaside resort. But we do believe in giving people as much information and help as we can while they are in a city."

The growth in demand in city breaks — whether including a tour or not — is now so great that travel companies believe they can increase some prices by up to 8 per cent and still increase bookings by 15 per cent next year.

Mr Kimber says: "The city break market is now coming to maturity. It took us five years to persuade people that there was somewhere beyond Paris. But now people seem to want to collect city breaks like stamps. Once they've been to the usual Amsterdam, Paris and Brussels, they move on and try somewhere new such as Prague, Madrid, Venice, Istanbul, Copenhagen or Dublin."

Thomson, which does not include Brussels in its city break brochure, says that most of its clients are couples

- 1 Paris
- 2 Amsterdam
- 3 Rome
- 4 Brussels
- 5 Barcelona
- 6 Vienna
- 7 Prague
- 8 Florence
- 9 Bruges
- 10 Madrid

Source: Cresta Holidays

coach to one hotel after another and offering pre-bookable excursions.

"These are professional people, usually travelling as a couple, who want to be free to be alone, to travel to their hotel by taxi, to make their own arrangements and who realise that it is as easy to book a particular trip from a hotel concierge if they wish."



The charm of Bruges is helping the city to cash in on the British fashion for city breaks

who leave the children behind while they take a romantic break, often turning the Eurostar service under the Channel to Paris into "the tunnel of love".

Thomson adds: "Many of our customers are couples on weekend breaks ranging in price from £99 to £999 as special treats for birthdays, anniversaries or even to pro-

pose engagement or marriage. "It is all very romantic and the added attraction of booking — perhaps as a surprise — a ball in Vienna, a Mozart concert in Salzburg or a Sunday brunch after a church service in Harlem, New York, just adds to the appeal."

Paris remains by far the most popular city break destination and Eurostar has

strengthened its appeal still further.

A typical three-night break in Bruges costs £226 a person including a Eurostar return and accommodation in a two-star hotel. The price is higher — £256 — if travelling by air.

Add-on rail journeys are available from most main English cities for £13 or £19 from Scotland.

Exodus of the elephants

By STEVE KEENAN

KENYA is relocating elephants within the country to help to reduce the pressure of tourist vehicles in its game reserves.

The sight of dozens of minibuses converging on a single animal has become common in Kenya's 56 parks and reserves, particularly in the Masai Mara and the south of the country. But 75 per cent of Kenya's wildlife is outside protected areas, and tourism officials hope that safaris can be encouraged away from the parks.

The plan coincides with a recovery in elephant numbers: up from 17,000 in 1989 to 25,000 and increasing by 1,000 a year. Rhinoceros populations have also recovered. From a level of 20,000 in 1970, the numbers have slumped to 350 in the past decade. There are now 450, rising by 5 per cent a year.

Meanwhile, poaching has been virtually wiped out. From 1970 to 1988, an average of 6,000 animals were killed annually. But in 1993, the figure was 58; in 1994, 53, and



Under tourist pressure, the elephants are being relocated

numbers are down this year. The recovery in wildlife has renewed the human-wildlife conflict, particularly around settlements where elephants are seen as a problem. So they are being relocated. A six-ton bull elephant and, last week for the first time, a family of five, have been moved.

But by encouraging landowners to operate safaris, the elephants and game could be an attraction. David Western, the Kenya Wildlife Service's director, said: "Landowners have put in bids for some of those elephants to become an attraction on their land."

"We are at a turning point in

our tourism industry and we have to look ahead. Having 50 minibuses around a single lion is the tourism of the present, but it cannot and should not be the future of tourism in Kenya."

"If we can encourage the local landowner, it will conserve parks and prevent their becoming mega-zoos. The last thing the tourist wants to see is fenced-off parks."

"We can keep them open if we involve local landowners, so they benefit from tourism and become custodians. It will break the logjam of large numbers of vehicles around every predator."

"If wildlife can be turned to profit for the landowner, the landowner will be the main beneficiary."

The UK is the biggest tourism market for Kenya. Last year, 863,000 Britons, most combining beach holidays with safaris, visited.

At a seminar in London, tourism officials played down safety fears, claiming that only ten reported thefts from tourists in the past four years. They also announced plans for a tourist police force.

Disney eyes London stage

By DAVID CHURCHILL

DISNEY is planning to buy a major London theatre to act as a showcase for its award-winning Broadway musical *Beauty and the Beast*.

The move follows Disney's brief acquisition of New York's famous New Amsterdam Theatre, which it plans to renovate after being closed for the past 20 years.

Disney is searching for a permanent London home for its musicals because it believes that it can emulate the success of Andrew Lloyd Webber's many musicals. "British productions have dominated American musical theatre for years," said Robert McTear, vice-president of Disney Theatrical Productions. He believes that *Beauty and the Beast* — which is running in both New York and Los Angeles and is shortly to open in 12 other US cities — is a success both for Disney and for American theatre.

Disney executives have been keen to bring the New

York production of *Beauty and the Beast* to London for some time, but have been unable to find a suitable theatre. London is seen as a key city for a permanent showcase as the UK accounts for some 30 per cent of all overseas visitors to the Disney theme parks in the US. Disney may choose to renovate an existing theatre, as it is doing in New York, or even build a theatre from scratch.

The Walt Disney Company already claims to be the world's largest theatrical business, because of the number of shows it puts on at its theme parks. It has more than 1,000 full-time singers and dancers, for example, in shows on at its Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

It is also expected to turn its latest animated film, *Pocahontas*, into a Broadway musical to replace *Beauty and the Beast*.

Meanwhile, one of its oldest and most famous characters



Disney's Broadway musical of *Beauty and the Beast*

has caused some recent embarrassment at its Disney World Resort in Orlando, Florida. Threats of litigation have forced it substantially to revise and tone down its popular Snow White attraction in the Magic Kingdom Theme Park.

According to Bob Selinger, author of the *Unofficial Guide to Disney World*: "We get more mail from our readers about this attraction than any other Disney ride. In short, it terrifies a lot of kids aged six and under." He adds that many readers report that

their small children will not ride any attraction that operates in the dark after experiencing the Snow White ride.

The problem was that the Wicked Witch was too scary and Snow White did not appear herself at all throughout the ride — the attraction is seen through her eyes. But it has now been changed to introduce an audio-animatronic figure of her, with the witch's role substantially played down. A special sign outside the attraction also warns parents that the ride can still be frightening.

Germans take most trips

THE GERMANS travel the most, the Japanese abroad are the biggest spenders and the United States cashes the most tourist dollars, according to a report from the World Tourism Organisation.

Germans embarked on more than 77 million foreign trips in 1994, followed by the Americans with 44.5 million and the British with 38.8 million.

The Japanese led the list of big spenders with an average \$2,261 per trip, followed by Australians with \$1,843, and the Norwegians and South Koreans with an average of \$1,660.

The most thrifty nationals are the Spanish (\$350), the

Mexicans (\$454), and the British, who part with a meagre \$470 each time they travel to foreign climes.

France has the most tourists in the world, attracting 60 million international visitors, followed by the United States, Spain and Italy.

In Asia, the leaders are China, then Hong Kong and Malaysia, while in the Middle East, Egypt tops the chart. South Africa leads in its continent, and Mexico is the number one tourist destination in Latin America.

The United States earns the most from tourism, with \$60 billion compared with \$24 billion for France in second place.

Jersey to boost visitors

By STEVE KEENAN

JERSEY is to spend nearly £50 million on tourism-related facilities to try to reverse five years of declining visitor figures.

The Channel Island has seen visitor numbers fall by 20 per cent since 1990, 115 guest houses and hotels have closed and tourism revenue lost to the island amounts to £250 million for the period.

The UK accounts for four out of five visitors, the majority being families and couples on summer holidays. This year, Jersey expects 520,000 UK visitors — more than the number of UK holidaymakers to Portugal or Turkey.

But one of Britain's biggest tour operators, Sunjet, is considering withdrawing a Jersey programme after one year and just 3,500 holidays sold.

And a recent report for Jersey's Tourism Committee has given warning: "Trade from the UK is under increasing threat, mainly because it is difficult for Jersey to compete with some of the keenly priced offers."

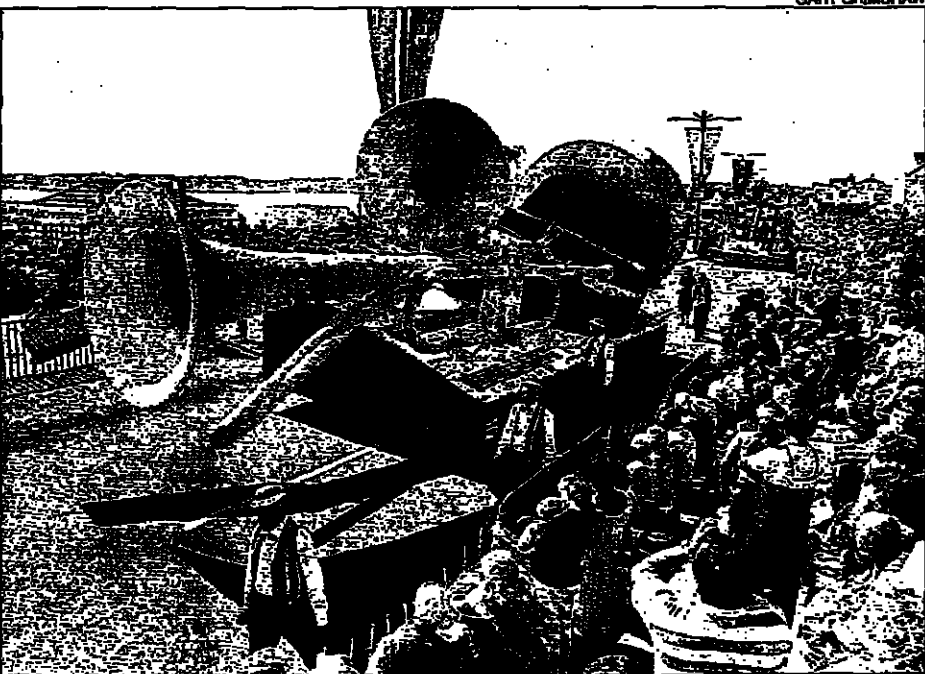
Research suggests that price is a key issue in the holiday decision — what you pay for is what you get. People expect Jersey to be cheaper because it is closer.

The report concludes: "The quality of the holiday experience must be improved or the island will lose further tourism business."

As a result of the crisis, the States of Jersey Government has taken a number of initiatives to boost its ailing tourism industry.

It has put aside £10 million for tourism facilities, to include an indoor leisure pool in the capital, St Helier. A fourth golf course, maritime museum and upgrading of the Fort Regent leisure centre are also mooted.

The drive to improve facilities



Even Jersey's annual "Battle of the Flowers" has failed to reverse the decline in visitors

ties coincides with capital investment programmes which will also benefit tourism. Work starts on a new £23 million airport terminal in January, while a £15 million marina should be ready for next summer.

Tourism still accounts for 28 per cent of Jersey's income. But its importance has been overshadowed in recent years by financial services, which account for 60 per cent of income. Island politicians admit that tourism investment has been ignored.

"There is no doubt tourism has been neglected by the States — that is why the £10 million is such a breakthrough. It has been the shot in the arm we needed, and is the difference between a future and stagnation," said Senator Dick Shenton, president of the island's tourism committee.

With such a small popula-

tion (84,000), politicians are acutely aware of local sensitivity about tourism. One research finding that Jersey could house a Sega games centre is highly unlikely to proceed.

Equally controversial is a suggestion that the ageing Fort Regent leisure centre be a focus for wet weather tourism facilities. The Government-owned centre is 20 years old, and loses £2 million a year.

But new tourism attractions at the fort could mean sports facilities, used by locals, being forced elsewhere. The debate will go on into next year.

The hoteliers have been particularly hard hit by the tourism downturn. The 350 guest-houses and hotels, mostly family-owned businesses, made less than £10 million profit between them this summer, a quarter of profits in the good years, which leaves little

for further investment in refurbishment. Prices have been depressed to average £35 per person for bed, breakfast and dinner in peak summer. The loss of nine hotels and 106 guest-houses means the island's bed stock is the lowest for ten years.

Unsurprisingly, the Hotel and Guest House Association is wary of government plans to attract an internationally known hotel brand to St Helier, fearing further dilution of revenues. It would prefer a casino or conference centre.

But association president Renzo Martin remains upbeat. "We have lost a few beds but they were mainly at the bottom end. With the present climate, people have improved existing rooms rather than add extra ones. The boom of the late 1980s couldn't go on for ever."

Swim the Chaplin way

TWO OF the team who make the Grand Hôtel du Cap Ferrat one of the most exclusive areas of the French Riviera will be in London over the next couple of weeks. Ian Murray writes.

Jean Claude Guillon, a Michelin-starred chef, arrives at The Berkeley Restaurant in Wilton Place on Monday as visiting cook for a week.

The following week, Pierre Grunberg, the hotel's swimming instructor who taught Picasso and Chaplin to swim, makes one of his regular teaching visits to England. From November 6 to 8 he will be at the Lygon Arms in Broadway and from November 9 to 11 he will be at the Savoy. Individual lessons cost £1 a minute.

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NEWS

Lilley moves to slash rent subsidy

State subsidies for the rents of some of Britain's poorest people will be slashed under plans drawn up by Peter Lilley to curb his £85 billion social security budget.

The Social Security Secretary has asked local authorities to stop topping up welfare payments from January 1 to new claimants whose housing benefit does not cover the rents charged by landlords, apart from in strictly defined cases of "exceptional hardship". Page 1

Labour to have lessons in leadership

Tony Blair is so concerned at the lack of ministerial experience among his frontbenchers that he is sending them back to an Oxford business school to learn how to run the country. They will attend a weekend course entitled "The management of changing government". Page 1

£9m divorcee appeals

The divorced wife of one of the world's wealthiest men has won leave to appeal against a £9 million divorce payout because it is not enough to keep her in her accustomed manner. Page 1

Child B named

Child B, who was denied leukaemia treatment by a health authority, has been named as Jaymee Bowen, aged 11. Page 1

Gays lobby Church

Gay activists claim to have the support of a quarter of the newly-elected General Synod of the Church of England and will make demands for the Church to marry homosexuals and ordain practising homosexuals. Page 2

Mother poisoned girl

A woman was convicted of poisoning her four-year-old daughter by feeding her a massive overdose of anti-depressant tablets. Page 3

West dental evidence

A photograph of Rosemary West's seven-year-old stepdaughter dominated her trial as the prosecution called a dental expert to try to prove her responsible for the child's murder. Page 4

Police under fire

Four police forces in areas with high levels of violent crime were branded as among the worst at catching the culprits. Page 5

BBC prejudices end of Pride

For half the country, it is a story that reaches its denouement on Sunday. The other half have known the ending since schooldays. But for those in doubt over how Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* finishes, the *Radio Times* gives the plot away this week. It has pictures of the wedding of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy in the BBC production. Page 5

Price of justice

People involved in civil disputes could face a daily court "hearing" fee under proposals being considered in Whitehall. Page 6

Asylum clampdown

Michael Howard defended a tough package of proposals designed to clamp down on bogus asylum applications as opponents accused him of playing the race card. Page 10

Palestinians rejoice

A huge party erupted on the streets of Jenin in the West Bank as thousands of Arabs marked the beginning of the end of nearly three decades of Israeli military rule. Page 12

Suicide note 'forged'

The "suicide note" discovered in Vincent Foster's briefcase after the deputy White House counsel's death was a forgery, a leading British handwriting expert has claimed. Page 13

Role for Russians

The United States and Russia are working on a formula that would allow Russian troops to work independently from Nato in Bosnia. Page 14

EU stays closed book

After protests, the Danish European Commissioner for the Environment has halted the publication of a Brussels diary in which she lambasts fellow Eurocrats. Page 15



Sir Cliff Richard shows off his medal as he leaves Buckingham Palace after receiving his knighthood from the Queen yesterday

BUSINESS

British Gas: British Gas shares dropped to their lowest level of the year after the gas industry regulator said that the company was facing liabilities of more than £1 billion. Page 25

Economy: The Government's funding problems that threatened to limit tax cuts in the November Budget eased after a successful auction of £3 billion of gilts. Page 25

National Grid: The Government announced the go-ahead for selling off the National Grid Company. Each consumer gets £50. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 2.5 points to close at 3537.8. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 83.6 to 83.7 after a fall from \$1.5817 to \$1.5795 but a rise from DM2.1935 to DM2.2013. Page 28

SPORT

Boxing: A 12-point package of safety measures by the British board gives doctors a higher profile during bouts and makes annual brain scans compulsory. Page 48

Motor rallying: Colin McRae moved a step closer to becoming the first British world champion after finishing second behind his team-mate, Carlos Sainz, in the Catalonia Rally. Page 48

Rugby union: The inaugural European cup tournament has attracted a combined television and sponsorship deal worth more than £20 million over three years. Page 45

David Miller: There can be only one realistic choice for a new national stadium, a 21st-century design to be built on the ashes of a demolished Wembley. Page 45

FILM

Films of the week: Nicole Kidman stars as the TV weather girl with pretensions in the vibrant comedy, *To Die For*, while Steven Seagal saves the world yet again in the Hollywood factory product, *Under Siege 2*. Page 37

Job change: The actor Anthony Andrews is back in the cinematic spotlight, but this time he is playing producer, with his new film *Haunted*. Page 37

Singing star: There were no airs or graces, just powerful music-making from Allison Moyet in her absorbing *Albert Hall* gig. Page 38

Theatre history: With her RSC production of *The Phoenix Women*, the director Katie Mitchell revives a play that has been underrated for more than 2,000 years. Page 39

VINTAGE

Vintage performance: Many of the myths of an ancient snobbery have been shattered in Janis Robinson's 20-year crusade to give wine back to the people. Page 17

French letters: Roger Scruton on Left Bank intellectuals and Angelica Goodden on Diderot, the first modern art critic. Page 40

Levin on Vidal: The great American writer's memoirs dissected by the great British columnist; Rachel Cusk on Anthony Burgess's last novel; Sally Emerson on the mothers feminism forgot. Page 41

Leg pain: Warnings to women on the Pill have focused attention on deep vein thrombosis. Dr Trisha Greenhalgh reports. Page 16

IN THE TIMES

HOLIDAY OFFER

Your chance to win a £1,200, nine-day holiday for two in India

POP

David Sinclair on the eagerly awaited new album from Pulp, pop's great outsiders

THE EUROPEANS

The Europeans have no shortage of potential nominees for Secretary-General of Nato. Too bad it would probably never come to pass, but the idea of someone like Margaret Thatcher at the helm is highly appealing, even awesome. Page 21

ANY RESPONSIBLE AMERICAN

Any responsible American has to realize that Russia — not Boris Yeltsin, who is just one man, but Russia — having come down so far and so fast in the world, needs careful handling. Page 19

Preview: Terry Major-Ball enters the debate over Europe by paying his first visit to the Continent for 40 years in *Picture this: Postcards to My Brother* (BBC2, 8pm) Review: Matthew Bond sees Wicksy grown up in *Paparazzo*. Page 47

The wrong card

John Major's instinct for justice, one of his most attractive traits as Prime Minister, should warn him against laying the racist card before the House. Page 19

The right signals

Señor Menem is a man with whom Britain can do business. Page 19

Fatal French attraction

Anglo-Saxons and other aliens can take French intellectual and cultural snobbery with a smile, because under its skirt it is much the same as the rest of us. Page 19

JANET DALEY

There are pockets of urban life in Britain that are now ruled by tribes of pre-pubescent children who are completely beyond the control of the adult community. Page 18

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

There is a gene which transmits a heightened risk of breast cancer, and no doubt there are genes for many other cancers as well. We are already being flooded with potential knowledge, some of which will lead to new treatments and cures, but much of which will simply give the bad news — news of heightened risk. Page 18

JOHN BRYANT

Whenever the building of sports facilities has revitalised a local community and put it on the map, there you will find driving it the local hero, the cult figure. Page 46

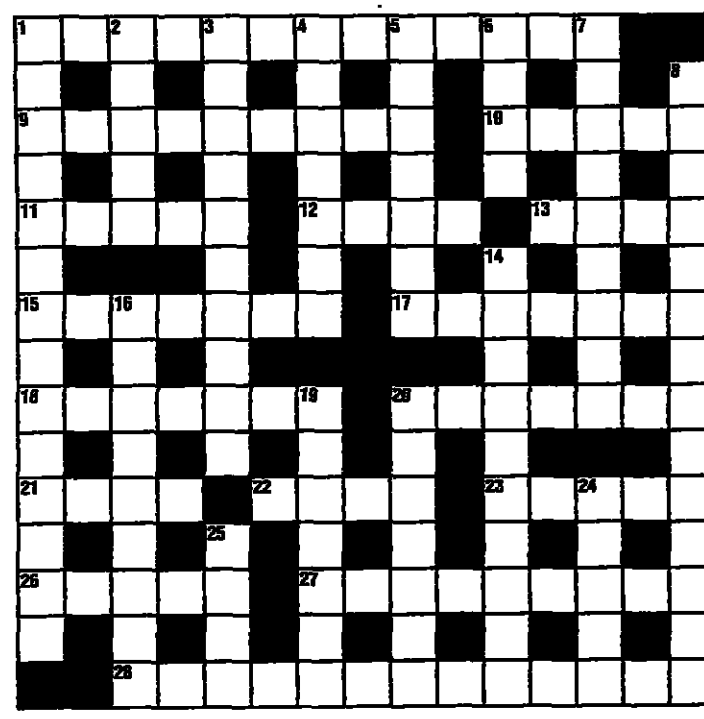
Sir Peter Lazarus

Sir Peter Lazarus, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Transport, 1982-85; Emile Jonaissaint, former President of Haiti; The Very Rev Ronald Selby-Wright, Minister of the Canongate, Edinburgh, 1936-77; William Dickson, finance director of Granada Television, 1976-82. Page 21

Controversy over Lottery

Controversy over Lottery charity allocations; ambassadors no longer Extraordinary; the Bar and legal aid. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,996



- ACROSS**
- Having sound principles, just spare sovereign (5-8).
 - Destitute old character retired in religious surroundings (9).
 - Fur shrinking back on top (5).
 - Nothing in new yarn to show synthetic fibre (5).
 - Instrument used by early revellers (4).
 - Transfer top player, say (4).
 - It could make me a lord (7).
 - Rather tall pine is hard to cut down (7).
 - Mental derangement reported in case of skin problem (7).
 - Destroyer at sea in wartime (7).
 - It may not have a point, in practice (4).
 - 22 Room for improvement in key part (4).
- DOWN**
- Captains side chosen and announced before match (5).
 - Start to suffer from disadvantage (5).
 - Faint piece of art painter kept in bottom drawer (9).
 - Culpable rebel sniper he knocked out (13).
 - Hansard extract that isn't verbatim (8,6).
 - Sacking one who shoots over city (5).
 - He wrote lamentably in Eton's third form (10).
 - Gangster fitting cowl on chimney (7).
 - Breathing-space below the bridge? (7).
 - Amount of rain falling in Scottish island (4).
 - Clergy running wild in one quarter? That's the stuff of a soap (9).
 - Fawley's old book on the unexplained (4,3,7).
 - Opening is found among workers for government's opponents (10).
 - Jane Eyre's beloved poet (9).
 - Give a turn half-left following launch (7).
 - Immature would-be wooer, going by air? (7).
 - Blister one at cards renouncing bridge, initially (5).
 - Hack composer dropping in (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,995

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Times Two Crossword, page 48

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Jersey, 17C (63F); lowest day temp: Aberdeen, 10C (50F); highest night temp: Barcelona, 18C (64F); lowest night temp: Norwich, 8.9F.

General: England and Wales

should start dry and bright with hazy sunshine. Southern counties are likely to cloud over with showers possible during the afternoon. Western areas are also likely to turn more cloudy later in the day. The best of the sunshine will be over northeast England. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cloudy day with outbreaks of rain. The rain is likely to be heavy at times over the western hills, but more patchy over eastern Scotland. Later in the day, the far northwest of Scotland and westernmost parts of Northern Ireland should become drier. Windy, generally.

London, SE, Central S, SW

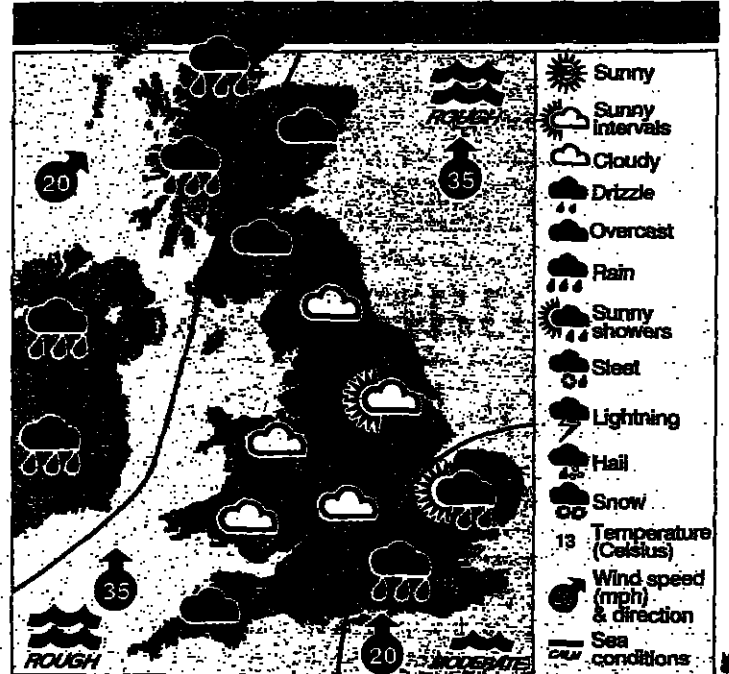
England, E Anglia, E Midlands, Channel Isles: Bright at first. Turning cloudier. Showers possible in the afternoon. Wind southerly moderate to fresh. Warm. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).

W Midlands, Cent N, E, NE

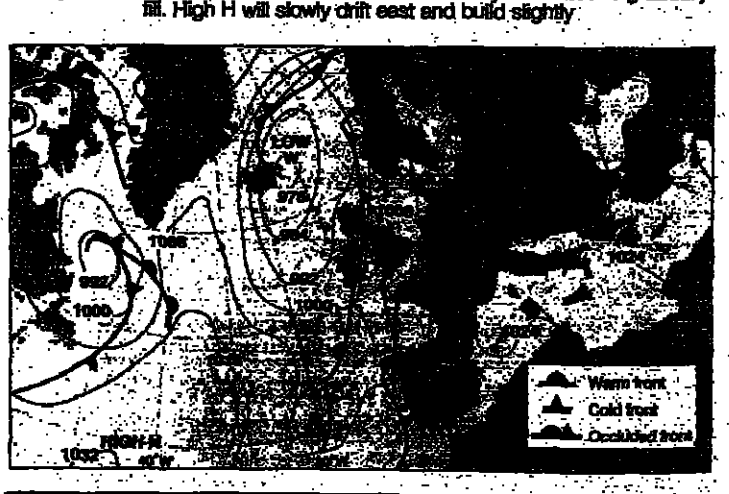
England: Dry. Some hazy sunshine. Wind southerly moderate to fresh. Warm. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).

Wales, NW England, Lakes, Isle of Man

Mainly dry. Sunny intervals. Cloudier later, patchy rain possible. Wind southerly fresh. Warm. Max 16C to 18C (61F to 64F).



Changes to the chart below from noon: low W will slowly drift east and gradually fill. High H will slowly drift east and build slightly.



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Location	AM	HT	PM	HT	Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34
London Bridge	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34	London	24.0	7.30	20.5	7.34

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